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Bonvilston homes get green light

by GEM REPORTER

THE Vale's planning committee has given the green light to a total of 120 homes on a site near Bonvilston – to the dismay of local residents.

Those objecting to the development point out that the size of the village could be doubled.

A spokesman for St Nicholas with Bonvilston Community Council told The GEM that due to the reduced viability of the development of 120 houses, Bonvilston and the neighbouring communities were effectively subsidising the project by almost £750,000.

He explained: "In order to make the project viable due to infrastructure costs of highways and water treatment works, it has been agreed that the council will reduce their requirements in a number of ways – by reducing the percentage of affordable homes from 40 per cent to 20 per cent; a reduction of 106 obligation for education from £1,123,000 to £500,000; a reduction of 106 obligation for the local community from £118,600 to zero; a reduction of '106 obligation' for sustainable transport from £240,000 to £36,000; and a total reduction in '106 obligations' of almost £950,000.

"It is interesting to note that other local developments at Wenvoe, HTV and St Nicholas, were all approved without any reduction in the 106 obligations.

"The highway improvements, instead of continuing from the A48 to the Peterston-Pendoylan junction, as had been proposed, will now only run for 400 metres from the main road. The use of £38,000 to provide a cycleway along this complete section must be questioned.

"How is it that this project has arrived at this point after more than four years in the planning?"

The spokesman emphasised: "The LDP 2013 specifically highlighted the need for improvements to highways and upgrades to the water treatment works.

"Surely four years has been sufficient time to determine the viability of the project? Yet the first time the community council was made aware of the issue, was just before the planning meeting when the development was approved."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

Mayor welcomes Northern Irish refs to charity coffee morning!

The Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, Coun Liz George, welcomed people to her first charity coffee morning of the year. Special guests were three young football referees from Northern Ireland who were part of an exchange visit organised by the Football Association of Wales. Later in the day, they were due to attend the match between Penybont and Haverfordwest County. IMAGE by MIKE WILCOCK

Ruby is set to star in Tiger Bay musical

Ruby Llewelyn.

A COWBRIDGE school pupil has landed a major role in a brand new production *Tiger Bay the Musical'*.

It is a Wales Millennium Centre production and will run in Cardiff from November 14 - 25.

Plucked from an open audition process in December, Ruby Llewelyn, aged 11 from Llantrisant, a pupil at Cowbridge Comprehensive School, will share one of the leading roles with Louise Harvey, aged nine from Rhiwbina.

Ruby already has an impressive pedigree in terms of performing.

"I was the voice of Igam Ogam, a very popular little girl, set in prehistoric times," she said.

"It was an animated TV series, starring Ruth Jones and ran for 27 episodes."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

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Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

• Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address and a contact telephone number.

An email address alone is not sufficient!

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

BREXIT: 'Why don't we all just get on with it?'

A WEEK, as they say, is a long time in politics – and certainly this last week has been an action-packed one in Britain's quest to escape from the EU post June referendum.

We've seen the Welsh Assembly's Labour and Plaid leaders announce their ideas for ignoring the fact that Wales voted to leave the union.

Despite campaigning to remain in the EU, our MP Alun Cairns, quite nicely stated that: "Welsh voters have more in common with the Prime Minister, Teresa May, than they do the views of the Labour and Plaid leaders of the Welsh Assembly."

That's what happens when they consult with prime Europhile Neil Kinnock on Welsh Brexit policy.

Meanwhile, millionaire Gina Miller, fresh from wasting her cash trying to delay Brexit by passing it through a House of Commons vote, has expressed a wish to be part of the Brexit negotiations team.

This beggars belief.

If hardened MEP, and Brexit hero Nigel Farage hasn't been invited to the team, then this lovely lady shouldn't be allowed anywhere near the negotiations.

I'd like to be part of the Brexit negotiations team, but hey: no-one has asked me.

We have Labour front-benchers going against the party line, and voting to go against the democratic wish of the country to leave the EU; and some like Owen Smith, Labour MP for Pontypridd, have gone against the wishes of the electorate who placed them in their job, and voted against Brexit.

I'm sure I'm not alone in having been politicised by the referendum and the attempts of some parties and individuals to overturn the democratic wish of myself and 17 million other voters.

So where does this place us mere voters, particularly the tribal voter who has always voted for a certain political?

Does Labour stand for, or against, Brexit? You could ask Jeremy Corbyn, but I doubt he knows.

Ask Carwyn Jones to explain the document he co-launched with Plaid.

The less said about the Liberal Democrats' anti-democratic stance the better...

Then there is still the question of how the un-elected House of Lords reacts to the process of leaving that other un-elected body, the EU.

Thankfully, there is still one party that campaigns for the implementation of the democratic wishes of over 17 million voters.

Am I the only one who just wants the Government to get on with Brexit, so we can get on with our lives and 'markets' and business have some certainty once more?

Ade Pitman,
Barry.

Flood relief: questions over rising costs

COUNCILLOR Neil Moore's response to my questions regarding the Coldbrook flood relief scheme avoids addressing my concerns (*'How justified are escalating costs of flood scheme? Estimate is now £5.865m': The GEM, February 2*)**.**

My points were about how the work and project are being controlled, and not whether the flood relief scheme is required. The impression given is that I, and others, need convincing about the need of the work, and that could not be further from the truth.

In the past, I have spoken as a school governor at a scrutiny committee about the disastrous flood: building on the flood plain.

I raised objections to the development of White Farm because of inadequate drainage along the Coldbrook; I tried to articulate community concerns at the public inquiry, but I was prevented by the inspector from raising the issue of drainage; and I have had articles and letters published on the poor drainage at Cemetery Lane and Lydstep Road.

Like many others, I do not need to be persuaded that the flood prevention work was necessary.

To remind readers, my questions were about escalating costs; doubling the contract period; accountability for public expenditure, and the use of delegated powers.

Agreeing authority for council officials to approve additional sums up to £2.5m "on any further increases", when cabinet meets every two weeks, is unnecessary and excessive.

Dennis Harkus, Barry

'Coun Burnett is right... Judge the Vale Council on merit!'

THE deputy leader of the Vale Council last week urged voters to make a judgement on the Labour-run council's record over five years when casting their votes on May 4, and she was right to do so (*The GEM, February 2*)**.**

But Vale residents may not view the last five years with the same rose-tinted glasses as Coun Burnett.

Some will remember this council for the inflation busting tax rises which have cost the average (Band D) resident £546.86 since 2012.

Barry residents, meanwhile, may hold them responsible for the loss of regeneration status for the town – while right across the Vale, many will certainly hold them accountable for the decimation of local bus services in the county.

I'm sure that many parents will also reflect on stressful, desperate campaigns they were forced to fight in order to block proposed school closures – or to prevent inappropriate housing development.

Clearly no council is perfect, but I do believe that residents will judge Coun Burnett and her colleagues on merit in May.

It will be up to them to decide if Labour are deserving of five more years, but I hope to join my colleagues in making the case for a change at the top!

Vincent Bailey,
Dyfan Conservative candidate, Barry.

Dangerous road has no speed bumps

I WOULD like to bring your attention to road safety on Severn Avenue in Barry. There have been numerous road traffic collisions over the years on this road, some minor and some quite severe.

The council has arranged for a mobile speed camera to be in position on a regular basis, but this van is only there during the day.

The speed of vehicles when the van is not there is concerning but for some reason, the road is not considered dangerous enough for speed bumps.

Mark Bell, Barry.

Speed: 'Drivers need to be more considerate'

IN reply to the partially-sighted person on Whitewell Road (*GEM letters, February 2*)**, I live on the White Farm estate and I would like to reassure you that you are not alone in thinking that people are driving too fast.**

Almost every day, I drive off or on to the estate with a clear road behind me, only to look in my mirror and find someone right up my boot. If I needed to stop suddenly for any reason, they would join me in the car.

More consideration needs to be given to one another on the road; it's not much to ask.

The roads are narrow, which I assume was done to try to prevent speeding, but unfortunately, speeds are maintained in tighter circumstances – which just makes it more dangerous.

(Name and address supplied.)

Justification needed on Commons vote

THE House of Commons has voted on proceeding with Brexit – despite this constituency voting in favour of protecting opportunities for younger people and EU membership.

Only 37 per cent of people eligible to vote in Wales used their vote to voice their disapproval of the EU as it is today.

Young people will be enslaved by Brexit, shackled to this island, unless they are from particularly wealthy families, like many politicians and their donors.

EU citizenship has enabled young British people to choose any university within the EU without paying international fees (in my case €1,900, rather than €15,000).

The single market has provided rules that have protected consumers and created a level playing field, so that no country within the single market can gain a competitive advantage by eroding worker conditions.

The customs union has enabled our manufacturers to supply components throughout the European market.

President Trump is one of the few world leaders who support Brexit. He is open to holding Prime Minister Theresa May's hand as she pleads for trade deals that might justify Brexit, impose US standards upon us, and take jobs back to the US. She seems to be one of his few friends.

Mrs May then paid a visit to President Erdogan of Turkey. Having warned him on his obligations to human rights and democracy, she proceeded to sell him £100million of military technology.

Ian Perry,
St Nicholas.

'Blatant cruelty to our wildlife'

I WRITE in response to the recent letters regarding fox hunting; I live in a rural village in the Vale and hate it when I am caught up amongst the hounds – a truly terrifying experience.

One particular day, I heard the bugles and turned around from my walk to go home, so as not to be confronted with anything upsetting, only to encounter a postman.

After a chat, he informed me he was from the farming community and openly admitted to allowing people onto his land to 'take pot shots' at the foxes.

He continued to upset me while regaling a story of a vixen that had been shot and was obviously feeding her young and so all these cubs would now starve.

He commented that the hunt was the better option, as only the old and sick were caught; he admitted foxes on his land were often wounded and left to die.

Either way, it upset me for the day and I had to walk away. It had opened my eyes even wider to the blatant cruelty to our wildlife.

(Name and address supplied).

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HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL FEBRUARY 16)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
09 Thur	05.15	8.8	17.42	8.9
10 Fri	05.55	9.2	18.20	9.3
11 Sat	0	10.2	20.59	10.0
12 Sun	09.19	9.8	21.43	9.5
13 Mon	10.06	9.3	22.29	8.9
14 Tues	10.51	8.7	23.19	8.4
15 Wed	11.45	8.3		
16 Thur	00.17	8.0	12.47	7.9

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Bonvilston villagers' concerns over new housing

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The spokesman stressed that some amenities are run by local volunteers: "The planning meeting held on Thursday, February 2, at which approval was given, was four days before the most recent consultation period was due to end. Whatever the intent, it does appear that this application was already a done deal.

"Bonvilston has very limited facilities – not even a public waste bin. The social amenities, which are available have little or no external financial assistance and are run by enthusiastic volunteers.

"Where will the funding come from to enhance what local facilities there are?"

DRAINAGE SCHEME

The spokesman said there were some very specific concerns regarding the development.

"Welsh Water will require a major upgrade of the Welsh Water Treatment Works and a new sewer feeding it as it currently only has capacity for a further 30 dwellings.

"The report states that the costs of such works will be subject to a 106 agreement. Given that further studies are necessary to confirm the solution, if costs increase, what assurances can be given that costs will not be cut in other aspects of the project in order to maintain the project viability?

"Similarly the drainage scheme as required by Welsh Water has not yet undergone detailed design and costing. Again what if the costs increase?

" The sports pitch and adjacent play areas are situated in an area subject to regular waterlogging. How is this going to be addressed so that it does not become a useless amenity?"

He added: "It is clear that this development is only made viable by the diversion of funds, which would have been otherwise used to support the growth in population. The loss of over £600,000 for education provision should be a real concern.

The decision was condemned by Plaid Cymru Vale councillor Chris Franks.

"This joins a long list of schemes where the planning committee has approved housing with little regard for the impact the building will have on the local roads, schools and public facilities."

'Abnormal costs'

Marcus Goldsworthy, the Vale Council's head of regeneration and planning, said: *"The concerns raised by St Nicholas with Bonvilston Community Council are noted.*

"There were a number of abnormal development costs that had to be factored into the development of this site. The council is required, by national planning guidance, to consider reduced contributions when an applicant can robustly demonstrate that planning obligations would adversely affect the viability of a development.

"In this instance, the council had to prioritise the necessitated improvements at Bonvilston Welsh Water Treatment Works and Pendoylan Lane, and these costs were balanced against a reduced provision of on-site affordable housing and reduced education contribution.

"Nevertheless, the site still offers the opportunity to provide a level of affordable housing in Bonvilston and the rural Vale that meets local needs, and will ensure necessary improvements to Pendoylan lane are undertaken.

"Viability and the prioritising of planning obligations were discussed at length during the consideration of the application at Planning Committee, and the decision was made having given due regard to all material considerations."

Saint's day concert at Bethel

COR Meibion Maesteg at Cylch will present a St David's Day concert at Bethel Community centre on Wednesday, March 1, at 7pm, with admission by programme (£5).

Sharing the stage will be Cor Merched Cwn Llynfi (Llynfi Valley Ladies' Choir) and Col Canto, a group of singers who have previously sung with the South Wales Opera Company. Founded by Patricia O'Neil and Patrick Wheatley, they include Cor Meibion baritone David Mayberry.

Col Canto sing a variety of music including popular songs, from musicals, opera, operetta and Welsh pieces, and were formed in 1994. The compère for the evening will be Huw Thomas (BBC) son of well-known local doctor, Noel Thomas.

The programme for the evening has been sponsored by Maesteg Motor House.

'Call the Midwife' to Sierra Leone!

YSTRADOWEN WI members gathered at the village hall to listen to a remarkable woman talk to the group.

Angela Gorman is one of a team of volunteer midwives who travel to Sierra Leone and Liberia to help women and their babies in a deprived part of Africa.

Their work was interrupted by the ebola outbreak, but they have recently been back to continue their necessary work.

Her illustrated talk was both moving and gave an insight into the very different lives of women on another continent. She told us about the joy and relief when huge consignments of baby clothes and donated medicines arrive and the difference they make to everyday life.

We concluded a memorable evening with the business of the day and would like to reiterate we welcome visitors and new members.

GB

'Two-tier charge to hire Town Hall'

I WOULD like to congratulate David Morris, the Town Clerk, for his excellent and informative news column on page 3 of The GEM last week.

I was particularly interested to read of the council concern over the forthcoming increase in business rates and its effect on the proposed precept.

We had this same concern when I joined the council back in the 1980s; I suggested then that we should consider a two-tier charging basis for hirers of the Town Hall – one rate for local groups whose members contribute towards the running costs through their council tax; and a higher rate for groups made up of those not based or living in the area and, therefore, not contributing to the high costs to the town of this community facility.

At that time, several Masonic Lodges regularly used the hall (their 'big G' is a permanent feature of the main hall, and has been for decades) and indeed had sole use of the second dressing room in the main hall to store their paraphernalia.

I don't know if this is still the case, but I would suggest that the nature of that organisation means that many of their membership using 'our' hall do not live locally and make no contribution towards it though their council tax.

I made an unsuccessful attempt to get the Freemason members of council to declare their interest and not take part in discussion of the hiring fees which might affect them.

Perhaps Mr Morris could let us have a breakdown of the 2016/17 hirers to clarify this, and also confirm whether or not the main hall has one dressing room for public use these days, or two, ie does one organisation have sole use of the second dressing room?

(Name and address supplied)

Ruby all set for musical

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

It involved a quick dash for Ruby and her mum Sian after school to get down to the studios at Cardiff Bay to do her voiceovers.

"I was also in the Sky comedy series Trollied. I was in one of the funniest scenes in which an incompetent butcher was cutting up a dead pig!"

Ruby has also starred in a number of adverts for such big names as Aldi, Iceland and Dairylea.

Ruby is also a keen musician, studying cello at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

She said: "I found out I had got the role the night before Christmas Eve, which was the best Christmas present.

"At first it was like I'd won a competition but it is starting to sink in now that I am going to Cape Town and be in a musical. It's just a dream come true."

She says that Mr Colbourne and Mrs Williams who encourage youngsters in performing arts at Cowbridge Comprehensive School have been "inspirational" for her.

'Tiger Bay the Musical' includes the excitement of two months of rehearsing and preview performances at the Artscape Opera House in Cape Town, South Africa.

Tiger Bay the Musical will bring to life the rich cultural history which helped shape the Welsh capital.

Ruby's role is pivotal to the storyline as it explores intergenerational and class relationships in the early 1900s when Cardiff Bay was one of the world's busiest ports.

Graeme Farrow, artistic director of The Wales Millennium Centre said: 'We held open auditions in Butetown to give local talent a really good chance of attending the auditions.

"Finding Ruby and Louise, who only live a few miles away, is a gift to us and will help us tell the awe-inspiring story of Tiger Bay with authenticity and passion.'

Tiger Bay the Musical is being produced in association with Cape Town Opera, maintaining the long-standing relationship with South Africa born from one of the centre's original philanthropists, South African businessman, Sir Donald Gordon.

Tiger Bay the Musical will premiere in Cardiff in November 2017. Tickets are on sale now: *wmc.org.uk*. For all the latest news, follow *@tigerbaymusical*

glamorgan-gem.co.uk

How beavers are being re-introduced into wilds of Wales

A SHORT while ago, residents near Llanblethian village hall may have been surprised to see a beaver being carried along the road!

Alice Leow-Dyke.

It was, however, a stuffed one and there was a good reason.

There have been articles recently in national newspapers about the proposed return of beavers to Wales, so Cowbridge U3A Natural History group was extremely fortunate in February to welcome Alicia Leow-Dyke, the Welsh Beaver Project officer, to give an illustrated presentation on the 'Past, Present and Future of the Beaver in Wales'. The beaver was one of her exhibits.

The Eurasian beaver was once native to Britain, but Gerald Cambrensis (Gerald of Wales) reported in 1188 that the only river in Wales to support beavers was the Teifi and even then there were few of them. The animal became extinct in the principality probably in the 15th century.

Indeed, by the late 19th century it is thought there were only about 1,200 remaining in Europe, in four isolated regions, as the animal was hunted for its warm, waterproof pelt, the castoreum from its scent glands (used in perfumes) and for meat (an adult in the wild can weigh 25kg).

The beaver is a herbivorous, territorial, monogamous creature, mainly active at dawn and dusk, well adapted to a semi-aquatic lifestyle, with eyes, ears and nostrils on the top of its head to facilitate swimming. The animal is, of course, well-known for its habit of felling trees, which is done for feeding or construction purposes.

Logs are used to build lodges, where the beavers live and breed, and, as these always have an underwater entrance as a predator-avoidance measure, dams are made to ensure water levels are kept suitably high. It is this practice that has led to beavers being called 'ecosystem engineers'.

The dams, made of sticks and logs, can reduce the risk of flooding by creating pools which store rainwater, but being porous, only attenuate water flow rather than stop it completely. Similarly, streams can be prevented from drying out in hot summers (remember them?) through the formation of reservoirs.

The wetland areas created by damming provide ideal habitats for a range of wildlife from fungi and invertebrates to fish, mammals and birds.

Beaver dams also trap sediment, which helps to filter the water and reduce the amount of pollution entering river systems.

It would also appear that more, and larger, migratory fish are found above beaver dams than had been the case prior to the construction of the barriers.

The felling of trees is a form of coppicing, as the trees usually regenerate where woodland canopies along a riverbank are opened up to allow other plants to flourish.

The Welsh Beaver Project started in 2005 and since then it has been investigating the feasibility of reintroducing beavers back into Wales, using information gained from the study of animals already living wild in Scotland and Devon.

Alicia has also visited Bavaria to see how the re-introduction of beavers there has been managed and their effect on the local ecology monitored.

An assessment of river systems identified six suitable sites in Wales, where habitat, topography, land use and absence of urban areas indicated a good environment for beaver release.

Wildlife Trust reserves, where a substantial human effort is already needed to manage birch and willow monocultures, offer an ideal opportunity to release beavers into areas already under 'sympathetic' ownership.

Of course, not everyone is in favour of the return of the largest rodent in the Northern Hemisphere, even if it was once indigenous to Great Britain, but control measures are possible.

Where appropriate, wire mesh cages can be used to protect trees, fencing can restrict access to specific areas of woodland or pasture and, when constructed, dams can be modified or removed if necessary.

The Welsh Beaver Project is currently working with Natural Resources Wales with the aim of re-introducing beavers later in 2017, if approval is given.

If all goes to plan with the beaver release, Alicia has offered to travel back to Cowbridge from Llandrindod Wells in the future to give the group a presentation on beavers in the wild in Wales – the record attendance of February 2017 may well be surpassed for that talk!

SPM

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TOM JONES AND TOM CLANCY HELP OUT CAVC CADETS

PICTURED (left to right): Public Services lecturer, Cadet Commander Tom Jones; Legion Potential Officer (training) Tom Clancy; Legion Major Steve Jennings; Legion Sergeant (training) Andrew Greenway and CAVC's James Young.

CARDIFF and Vale College has entered into a unique partnership with the Gryphon Squadron, giving its cadet division a unique range of experiences.

Cardiff and Vale College Cadet Division (CAVDETS) was established to give students the opportunity to gain experiences and qualifications in leadership, land navigation, medical aid, survival skills, career planning and voluntary work. Qualifications include Level 2 Award for Young Leaders, Level 1 Introduction to First Aid, Level 1 Customer Service Skills and Level 1 Fire Safety, and plans are in place to offer BTEC and ILM qualifications.

CAVC lecturer and Cadet Commander Tom Jones said: "It is exciting to have the involvement of the Gryphon Squadron and their support – this isn't happening anywhere else in Wales."

The Gryphon Squadron is a non-profit part of the Countess Mountbatten's Own Legion of Frontiersmen and provides training to its squadrons.

Led by ex-military personnel, it offers community support in times of need, such as flooding.

Gryphon Squadron Legion Major Steve Jennings said: "We do a lot of charity work, work to support the community and help young people progress.

"As an ex-serviceman, I believe we should be doing a lot more for young people – it's easy to do them down, but everyone has potential.

While Gryphon Squadron will provide support, CAVDETS aims to be more than a military experience.

Other organisations that support the cadets include South Wales Police, Welsh Ambulance Service, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, British Red Cross, British Heart Foundation, Maritime Coast Guard Agency, RNLI and Safeguard Armour.

Otter is found on the local Llantwit Road

IMAGE by ROGER MILTON

COWBRIDGE resident Nicola Massie was shocked to find a dead otter on the Llantwit Major Road not far from Darren Close on Tuesday morning, January 7.

Nicola, who was walking the dog, told The GEM: "It was at about 7.45am. I was very surprised to see the otter."

It had been run over and Nicola rolled it out of the road. Natural Resources Wales told her that the otter probably came from the brook near Llanfrynach Church.

It will be taken to Cardiff University for examination.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

Llangan School

YESTERDAY (Wednesday, February 8) children in years 3/4 at Llangan school were taking part in a Lego education day – and they were really looking forward to a new experience!

On February 14, members of Llangan school's table tennis club will take part in a school championship competition at Sophia Gardens, Cardiff.

Concert

A concert by the popular Ogmore Valley Male Voice Choir will be given in Treoes Village Hall on Friday, February 17 at 7.30pm.

Proceeds are in aid of Saron Chapel, Treoes. For tickets (£5), telephone 01656 663693.

Flower arrangers' Ruby celebration

COWBRIDGE and District Flower Arrangers Club celebrated their 40th anniversary on February 1, with an enjoyable dinner in the Bear Hotel.

Fifty members attended, including the first chairman of the club.

During the evening, Pauline referred to the National Flower Arranger Magazine from 1977, which welcomed the club to the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies. The current copy also congratulates them on their 40th anniversary.

Llancarfan Primary pupils get musical!

LAST week, children from Llancarfan Primary School were treated to a spectacular day of African drumming workshops.

Liz Mullins from 'Slapping Skins' brought in an impressive array of djembe drums and the school was alive with exciting and vibrant sounds as each of the children got in touch with their musical side.

The children thoroughly enjoyed the workshops and had some creative fun.

Appreciation and thanks go to Llancarfan Community Cinema and the Cerys Potter Foundation for helping fund such a fabulous day.

CH

Bank closure debate

FOLLOWING the shock announcement that HSBC will be closing its branch in Maesteg later this year, Ogmore MP Chris Elmore has called for a debate in Parliament, to discuss bank's responsibilities to the communities they serve.

From May, customers will no longer be able to visit the HSBC branch in Maesteg but will have to go to Bridgend or Port Talbot to do their banking.

The MP said: "I'm deeply concerned about HSBC's decision and will meet with them in the coming weeks. Banks have a responsibility to their communities and that's why I've called for a debate in Parliament to make sure towns and villages aren't abandoned by our banks."

The questions were put to leader of the house David Liddington MP on January 2.

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Brownies have 'muffin' bake-off

THERE were no soggy bottoms for the 1st Colwinston Brownies when they took part in the first round of the 'Great British Brownie Bake Off'.

The girls aged between and 10 were asked to bake a sweet or savoury muffin, to be judged for texture, appearance, presentation and of course taste.

Colwinston WI's own 'Mary Berrys' Dolores Howell and Chris Duxbury had the unenviable job of choosing a winner to go through to the next stage.

In fact, the judges found their task so difficult they had to go back for a second bite of each muffin.

Eventually after much cogitation and deliberation, the judges decided the winning muffin was baked by Emily Cook, who will represent Colwinston Brownies in the second round competing against other winners from the district.

The 1st Colwinston Brownies welcomes new members; for more information email: colwinstonbrownies@gmail.com or go to www.girlguiding.org.uk.

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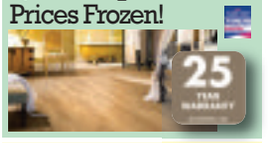
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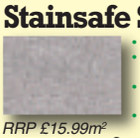
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Glamour and sparkle at Peterston Super Ely raises £3,000 for charity!

Photographs by IAN DIXON

PETERSTON Church and community hall was the venue for a superb 'Ladies' Glamour and Sparkle' evening on Friday, February 3.

Following a 'fizz' reception, the ladies sat down to a scrumptious dinner, served by husbands and boyfriends, under the direction of John Hooper.

Entertainment was provided by an excellent ladies' song and dance cabaret, plus a hilarious monologue by Michael Morgan with the evening culminating in a lively disco dance session.

The dinner was an outstanding success and organiser Jackie Brown commented that in excess of £3,000 was raised in support of 'Woman V Cancer', fighting breast, cervical and ovarian cancers.

Husbands and boyfriends took on the role of waiters

The song and dance cabaret.

Michael Morgan provided a monologue

Former boxing champ is a knockout speaker

PICTURED: Former boxing champ, Nicky Piper (on right).

COWBRIDGE Rotary Club had a great Monday evening's entertainment listening to former WBO Inter-continental Light Heavyweight boxing champion, Nicky Piper, who was born at Culverhouse Cross.

With a record of 26 wins, five losses and two draws, he was a formidable presence in the ring, and he had a wealth of fascinating and amusing anecdotes about his time as a professional boxer, when he fought Nigel Benn, 'The Dark Destroyer' for the World Super Middleweight title in 1992; and the characters like Frank Warren and Don King who had trained the fighters who had squared up to each other in the nineties.

One of his claims to fame was when he took on 'Big John' Ellis in November 1990: he knocked him out in round one in 12 seconds, and that included the 10-second countdown!

After his retirement, Nicky became a sports commentator and in 1997, a member of the British Boxing Board of Control. He worked as chairman of the Professional Boxing Association and in 2005 he was awarded the MBE for his services to the sport.

He is also a member of MENSA, the high IQ society, and now works for George Thomas Hospice Care charity as the events manager.

He talked fluently and easily for some 40 minutes and gave a thoughtful and entertaining insight into the world of the pugilist.

JACOB IS FARMER OF THE YEAR – *AGAIN!*

JACOB Anthony of Cwm Risca Farm, Tondu was awarded the Glamorgan Farmers' Club 'Farmer of the Year' title in the under-25 catergory.

Jacob was delighted to accept the award at a dinner held at the Grove Golf Club in Porthcawl. This is now a 'hat trick' for the Hill Farmers, with members of Bridgend YFC winning it three years in a row.

Last year, Jonathan Howells from Bryncynon Farm, Maesteg, won the award; and Jacob had also won the year before that.

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Children in Need to run funding surgery in the Vale next month

THE BBC's Children in Need charity has announced that projects requiring funding are invited to discuss their ideas at a forthcoming event.

Projects working with disadvantaged children and young people across the Vale are being invited to attend a funding surgery in Barry, organised by BBC Children in Need in collaboration with Glamorgan Voluntary Services.

The funding surgery will be held at Barry Community Enterprise Centre, Barry, from 10am to 5pm on Thursday, March 2.

BBC Children in Need supports projects that work with disadvantaged children and young people aged 18 years and under living in the UK affected by illness, distress, abuse, or neglect; behavioural or psychological difficulties; disabled children and young people and those living in poverty or situations of deprivation.

Organisations that are interested in applying for funding will need to forward a project proposal outline (no longer than one side of A4 paper), preferably by e-mail, to dave@gvs.wales. Applications must be received by Friday, February 24. Successful applicants will be advised of their appointment time by Tuesday, February 28.

James Bird, National Officer for BBC Children in Need Wales, said: "We want to give projects working with disadvantaged children and young people, who may be looking for funding, the opportunity to discuss their ideas in a face to face setting.

"We know from our existing work in the Vale that local projects could benefit from BBC Children in Need funding, so I'd encourage any interested projects to apply for an appointment and find out more."

The charity funds two types of grants; both of which are open to applicants. A Small Grants Programme includes grants up to and including £10,000, which supports projects for one year, while the Main Grants Programme is for grants over £10,000 per year to support projects for up to three years. All projects funded by the charity must demonstrate a positive impact on the lives of disadvantaged young people, under the age of 18.

Those unable to make the surgery can view full details on how to apply for BBC Children in Need grants via; www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey.

Work to make Penarth's parks to be 'more wheelchair-friendly' starting

PARKS in Penarth are set to receive wheelchair-accessible roundabouts, as modifications are made to the original designs to upgrade the areas.

Plassey Square and Penarth Cliff Walk play areas will now boast the roundabouts – which boost accessibility to disabled users – as part of the Vale of Glamorgan Council's proposals to upgrade a number of play areas in Penarth.

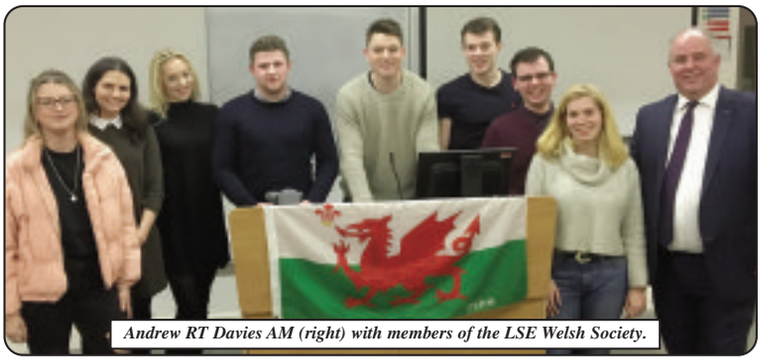
A total of £600,000 had been set aside for improvements to parks in north Penarth, including Plassey Square, Dingle Park, Cogan recreation ground and Paget Road through money received in section 106 contributions. The Penarth Cliff Tops play area refurbishment, meanwhile, has been made possible due to Vale Council internal funding.

The wheelchair-accessible roundabout upgrade to Plassey Square has been made possible, said a spokesperson, "within the existing parameters of the S106 funding". The addition of a wheelchair-accessible roundabout to Penarth Cliff Top has been funded via departmental asset renewal funding for 2016/17, with the installation and surfacing costs of this additional equipment being covered by the play contractor Sunshine Playgrounds as a community goodwill gesture.

Anna Murphy, co-founder of Oshi's World, a local charity that supports families of children with disabilities and special needs, said: "It's wonderful to hear that the Vale Council has upgraded the plans for these two play areas to include wheelchair accessible roundabouts. This will allow my son and his friends to enjoy the new facilities along with other children."

The work to upgrade these play areas is due to begin this month, and will take four to six weeks.

'Vale roots shaped my politics' – Tory leader



Andrew RT Davies AM (right) with members of the LSE Welsh Society.

LEADER of the Welsh Conservatives and lifelong Vale resident, Andrew RT Davies, has spoken of how his roots in the area inspired him to go into politics.

Mr Davies, who has represented the Vale in the National Assembly for Wales since 2007 as regional AM for South Wales Central, made the comments as he addressed the Politics and Welsh Societies at the London School of Economics (LSE) recently – in an event on 'Why Wales voted Brexit'.

Leaving school at 16 to work in the family farming business in St Hilary outside Cowbridge, Mr Davies said he had never intended to go into politics and would not have imagined putting on a suit every day to go to work.

But the BSE crisis of the 1990s, which had serious effects on many farms across the Vale and the whole of the UK, put him in a position where he thought he had to do something.

At the time, he felt there were not enough politicians who understood agricultural issues – of huge importance in the Vale – and he could not sit back.

He said he would never forget his background in the Vale, and that he campaigned for Brexit because he believed it would deliver a better future for the area and the whole of the country.

Mr Davies said: "It was a pleasure to visit the LSE and address the Politics and Welsh Societies. While I went to speak about Brexit, it inevitably started with me talking about my background in the Vale and how this shaped my outlook.

"When I joined the family farming business, I never imagined I would one day go into politics, but it was the impact the BSE crisis was having on the agricultural industry in the Vale that inspired me to do it.

"I firmly believe that Brexit offers many opportunities to the area, as we will be able to reduce EU regulation and deliver policies that work for our local communities.

"I was delighted to have the opportunity to share this insight with LSE students and I would like to thank them for their kind invite to speak."

372 Squadron Barry Air Cadet on a jolly to Gib

Rhys in Gibraltar with other Air Cadets from the UK.

RECENTLY, Air Cadet Rhys Horton spent an "amazing camp" at RAF Gibraltar.

Royal Air Force Gibraltar is a unique station situated in the shadow of the 1,400-foot-high Rock of Gibraltar adjacent to the border with Spain. The 6,000-foot airfield was built at the start of the Second World War and is an integral part of Gibraltarian life as the only road into Spain crosses the runway.

RAF Gibraltar's mission is to: 'Provide an operational airhead capable of mounting UK and coalition military operations and in doing so contribute to the maintenance of British sovereignty of Gibraltar.'

Rhys's unique overseas camp allowed him to meet 50 other air cadets from around Wales and England. On arrival, he received briefings about safety, medical emergencies, security and the camp programme.

Rhys had the opportunity to walk to the top of 'The Rock', taking approximately one hour. At the top, he admired the fantastic views of Gibraltar, where he saw the playful Barbary macaques.

The week at Gibraltar was a mix of fun activities and military experiences. Rhys spent 'quality time' on the beach, ice skating, experiencing dolphin sailing safari, Bahia waterpark, Selwo adventure park and visiting St Michael's vast cave within the Rock of Gibraltar as well as shopping in the town of Casemates.

On the military side, Rhys visited the fire and police sections and had a guided tour of a Royal Navy ship; while also meeting air cadets from No.2 Overseas Air Cadet Squadron.

Rhys said: "I had the most amazing time while I was there, we did so much in seven days; I loved every minute of my stay doing the military as well as fun/leisure stuff that I never wanted to leave; I made so many new friends."

The Air Cadets also undertake many other exciting activities besides ceremonial parades including flying, gliding, adventure training, shooting, sport, field craft, the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, expeditions and visits to RAF Stations around the United Kingdom.

The cadets are looking forward to their forthcoming trip to the battlefields and memorials of Ypres and the Somme.

372 (Barry) Squadron has vacancies for boys and girls between 12-18 years old (from school year-8). 372 Squadron parade on Mondays and Wednesdays 7pm – 9.30pm behind Adams' Funeral Parlour (by the Memorial Hall).

Airport hotel bags prize

A LOCAL hotel has won an in-house award as the best small hotel for 2016.

Recently, the Travelodge annual conference took place and during the evening there was an award ceremony for outstanding achievement.

The hotel manager, Ryan Hughes, said: "At the awards, Travelodge Cardiff Airport was named as the 'Best Small Hotel of The Year 2016' – no mean feat considering the size of Travelodge!

"Previously, Travelodge Cardiff Airport also won 'Hotel of The Year 2014' and 'Customer Service Award 2014' – a double award win, which is an extremely rare occurrence."

Local school in mourning

ALBERT Primary School in Penarth is in mourning following the sad death of its headteacher Huw Jones.

Last week, a spokesperson for the Vale Council issued a statement which read: "On February 1, South Wales Police informed the council that they had found a body they believe to be that of Huw Jones, Albert Primary School's headteacher.

"We have informed staff, parents, and pupils of this sad news today. A counselling service is being made available to provide any support that is required."

'Assembly must act on business rate relief'

Vale MP
ALUN CAIRNS
reports to GEM readers

ON Monday I will be holding a meeting in the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge, for small business owners affected by the ongoing issue of changing business rates.

Specialists in the rateable value from Cooke and Arkwright will be speaking, providing advice on how businesses can appeal new rateable values and keep business rates as low as possible.

The meeting is to take place at 6pm in the ballroom of the hotel, and all small business owners in the Vale of Glamorgan are welcome.

Many businesses across the Vale, and particularly in Cowbridge, are bracing themselves to be hit quite hard by new, higher rates over the coming years. The effect of the new rate will be partially mitigated in the short-term by a 'transitional rate relief' from the Welsh Government, which will stagger the increase over a longer period of time.

Effective campaigning from local businesses led by Sally Stephenson of The Pencil Case stationery store in Cowbridge has forced the Welsh Government to double the size of this fund.

Although this transitional relief is better than nothing, it falls far short of what is needed to protect our High Streets. As the name implies, it exists to ease the transition to rates that are too high for many of our most valued business to survive, meaning the eventual impact on High Streets will likely be negligible.

What is needed is a permanently enhanced small business rate relief, similar to that which will be used in England by the UK Government from April onwards. As it stands, traders in Wales will pay significantly higher rates in the years to come than businesses in England with premises of the exact same value.

This is because in England, rates will be abolished for all businesses with a rateable value below £12,000 and tapered up from there. The qualifying band for full relief in Wales is much lower.

For example, a boutique clothes store on Eastgate in Cowbridge, is currently paying £1,546 per year in rates, but will be liable for £5,260 per year following revaluation. If the shop were based in England it would pay no business rates at all after April.

Sally Stephenson of the Cowbridge traders' campaign is very aware of this difference, and is petitioning the Welsh Government for a proper, permanent relief scheme achieving a degree of parity with England.

It is up to the Welsh Government to listen and act to protect that most valuable institution in our communities, the High Street.

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NEW SPONSOR FOR CARDIFF BAY RUN

AS the countdown for the Cardiff Bay Run reaches just eight weeks, Cardiff and Vale College (CAVC) has been announced as new title sponsor.

Previously known as the Cardiff Bay Five Mile, a stunning new 10km route around Cardiff Bay has also been revealed for the event which is now officially titled the Cardiff and Vale College Cardiff Bay Run.

Starting in the heart of Cardiff Bay, the route passes the iconic Wales Millennium Centre, Pierhead Building, Senedd and Porth Teigr; loops around the Cardiff Bay barrage and passes the Norwegian Church before a grandstand finish in the Roald Dahl Plass.

A 2km family fun run will kick off the day's proceedings, allowing runners of all ages and abilities to take part.

Mike James, chief executive of the Cardiff and Vale College Group said: "We're delighted to support Run 4 Wales in bringing this exciting event to the region. As the largest college in the Cardiff Capital region, we have over 30,000 young people and adults from across Cardiff, the Vale and beyond learning with us each year.

"We also encourage all staff and students to participate in sport or activities that can support their wellbeing.

"The exciting new event is a wonderful opportunity for us to support our community – with many of our students and staff running or gaining a brilliant experience from volunteering on the day."

The Bay Run's new sponsor unveiled.

Matt Newman, chief executive of race organisers Run 4 Wales, commented: "We are delighted to be partnering with CAVC on the Cardiff Bay Run and look forward to delivering a fantastic event in two months' time.

"The new partnership will provide an exciting range of opportunities for both students and staff to get involved, and allows us to extend our reach to a new audience of participants, spectators and volunteers.

"The decision to introduce a new 10km route, replacing the old five-mile course has proven extremely popular. We've been blown away by the interest in the race – from elite and club athletes looking for a fast time right through to beginners looking to improve their fitness or raise money for charity".

As well as a large number of staff and students from CAVC, a sea of yellow 'Team CF' runners representing official charity partner the Cystic Fibrosis Trust will be out in force on race-day, running to make a difference for thousands of people with cystic fibrosis in the UK, their families and carers.

Those looking to take part in the Cardiff & Vale College Cardiff Bay Run are being urged to get their entry in before it's too late, with nearly 4,000 runners already signed up.

Registration is expected to close next month, when the race reaches its capacity. Entry starts from £19 and includes a medal and technical race t-shirt for every finisher. Sign up at www.cardiffbayrun.co.uk .

The event is organised by Run 4 Wales, the delivery team behind the Cardiff University/Cardiff Half Marathon and takes place on Sunday, April 2.

Tougher penalties for drivers caught using their mobile phones

DRIVERS caught using their mobile phone behind the wheel, face tougher penalties under new laws being introduced on March 1.

Any motorist caught using a handheld device while driving will receive six points on their driving licence and a £200 fine.

Chief Inspector Martyn Stone, of South Wales Police, said: "Drivers who decide to use a mobile phone at the wheel are committing an offence. By using a device whilst you drive, you increase the risk and probability of being involved in a serious or fatal collision.

"The current penalty for anyone caught using a mobile phone while driving is a £100 fine and three penalty points. In more serious cases, police officers have powers to prosecute drivers for careless or dangerous driving.

New penalties, that will be made available to police officers on March 1, show the importance the Government places on ensuring that the roads are safe for all users."

The announcement came following publication of the 2016 All-Wales Anti-Mobile Phone While Driving Campaign; a total of 199 offenders had been caught in south Wales.

The campaign, which ran between November 7 to November 20, urged all road users to 'keep their eyes on the road' and not be distracted by answering their mobile phone, reading a text or going online.

Chair of Road Safety Wales Susan Storch said: "Campaigns such as this demonstrate the resolve of all the Road Safety Wales partners in tackling this issue, and we will continue to work together to drive home the message of not using your mobile phone behind the wheel.

"No call or text is that important."

OASIS COFFEE SHOP

ON Thursday mornings during school term times, Bethel Baptist Church, Miskin Road, Pontyclun holds a coffee and cake morning to raise funds for various charities.

The Oasis Cafe is open from 10am to 12 midday and welcomes all, including babies and toddlers. Gluten-free options are available.

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Surveys show that the Penarth 'landmark' viewpoint safe to open

THE Penarth Head Viewing Platform has now reopened – after surveys confirmed it is safe for the public to use.

First opened in May 2015, the landmark feature, based on the Wales Coast Path's shell-shaped logo, was forced to close when cracks appeared in one of the side walls along an expansion joint.

A spokesman reported that investigations indicated it has not deteriorated further, and there was no evidence of any ground movement around the feature, meaning visitors can use it again. The council will continue to monitor the site and work with the contractors who constructed the platform to repair any cracking in the near future.

Fencing erected near the cliff edge will remain in place for safety reasons.

The viewing platform has been a long time in development. Penarth Tourism and Visitor Association suggested a landmark feature at Penarth Head Park around 2011.

The Welsh Government funded the project as part of a nationwide programme to celebrate the opening of the Wales Coastal Path, The platform has a raised surface to improve visibility and allows wheelchair access with clear views over the boundary wall.

Road safety feedback on local road

Alexander Crescent in Barry.

MR M Cain, who lives in Barry, told The GEM he had concerns about the speed of traffic on Alexander Crescent in response to our recent road safety article.

He explained: "I have concerns about Alexander Crescent, Barry, an accident waiting to happen! Cars zoom up the hill past the local centre. When there is a function on, cars park on both sides of the road which narrows the road even more. Twice I have nearly had an accident."

There IS such a thing as a free lunch!

VOLUNTEERS at the free Luncheon Club in Cadoxton Methodist Church Hall met Vale Labour AM Jane Hutt recently, when she visited the scheme.

This service runs alongside 'Free Soup for the Elderly' at the Main Street Cadoxton Multicultural Cafe.

The luncheon club will run on February 16 and March 2 and 16 (1pm–3pm).

'Soup for the Elderly' will run on February 21 and March 7 and 21 (11am–3pm)

To book a place and for more information, contact the Barry Communities First team on 01446 709432.

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On a practical level, if your home has previously been extended or the drainage needs to be moved, it will take time to get the necessary approvals.

At Securahome we always project manage the approval process and expect local authority planning permission to take at least 10 weeks, with sewer agreements often involving a similar timescale.

All things considered, once you've made the decision to go ahead, it could take three or four months before you can put your feet up and enjoy your new room. However, having invested the time to design, plan and build it properly we think you'll agree that your new conservatory or orangery will be more than worth the wait!

Free sofas from Place For Homes

PLACE FOR HOMES at Llandow is celebrating 50 years of trading by giving away sofas to needy people in the Vale.

Just before Christmas, Rhian Francis, managing director, was alerted to rising homelessness in the area,and decided that Place for Homes would like to help. More than 15 sets of sofas and chairs were identified to give away to those who needed them most.

"The idea initially was that this would happen before Christmas, in order to help those most in need, at a time which can prove very difficult," a spokesperson explained.

"We contacted the housing department at the Vale Council who were delighted with the proposition and shocked that brand new quality sofas and chairs were going to be given free.

"Coun Bronwyn Brookes, the councillor in charge of housing, explained the need that was on our doorstep, and the number of people that were rehomed by the council but had no furniture at all."

Coun Brookes went to the store in January and was told that the sofas and chairs on offer were new, met all relevant fire regulations, and would have each retailed at more than £1,500.

"The sofas are being delivered free by delivery teams from next week, and discussions have already begun to provide dining, beds and bedroom furniture to those in need,' the spokesperson added.

Safer Internet Day warns against the cyber bullies

PARENTS and teachers in the Vale are being encouraged to switch on to internet safety, this Safer Internet Day.

Young people in the Vale could be at greater risk of cyber-bullying and other online risks unless support is given to young people to keep safe online, the Welsh Government has said.

Bullying is thought to affect thousands of children in Wales and instances of cyber-bullying are reportedly on the rise. The Welsh Government is attempting to tackle the issue through its anti-bullying campaign, 'Bullying is Everyone's Business'.

To raise awareness of the importance of online safety, Welsh Government held an event at the Senedd on Safer Internet Day (February 7) where Cabinet Secretary for Education, Kirsty Williams launched an online 'safety zone' on 'Hwb', the national digital learning platform for Wales.

The new 'safety zone' is a dedicated area on Hwb designed to help keep children safe online. It will direct those dealing with the effects of online bullying or any online safety issue towards appropriate support services.

As part of the campaign, the Welsh Government is encouraging people across the region to make bullying everyone's business. Kirsty Williams wants to see young people, teachers, parents and professionals in the Vale become more online-savvy, citing February's Safer Internet Day as the ideal time to start.

If you know someone dealing with the effects of bullying, or you yourself are the victim of online abuse or any form of bullying, visit meiccymru.org for information and to access support services.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO EASE LONELINESS

FOR many older people, the days can seem never ending; many do not see anybody from one week to the next – sometimes nobody at all.

In the winter months, the cold and dark evenings are factors that prevent people going out. This social isolation can have a devastating effect and can cause many health problems.

You can make a difference to a lonely person in the community by volunteering for Age Connects Good Neighbours. Some company can make a vast difference; just two hours a week, having a cup of tea and a chat can bring a little happiness. Volunteer drivers can help with shopping or health appointments.

If you are interested, contact the Good Neighbours on 01446 795549.

BP

Youngsters learn about the dangers of carbon monoxide

Ex-Wales and British Lions rugby player Tom Shanklin with previous winners, Alys Thomas and Scott Davies.

ARTISTIC youngsters from across south Wales are being invited to enter an annual competition to come up with something creative that warns of the dangers of carbon monoxide (CO), and to win cash prizes for themselves and their local school or organisation.

The competition, which is being led by Wales & West Utilities, the gas emergency and pipeline service for the area, is urging local pupils aged 5 – 11 to produce an eye-catching poster, poem or entry in another medium, like a film, which is both informative and accurate, and warns of the dangers of CO poisoning and how to avoid them.

Wales & West Utilities attended 60 incidents across south Wales that were CO-related and the company hopes, by taking part in the competition, that more people will become aware of the dangers and the warning signs to look out for.

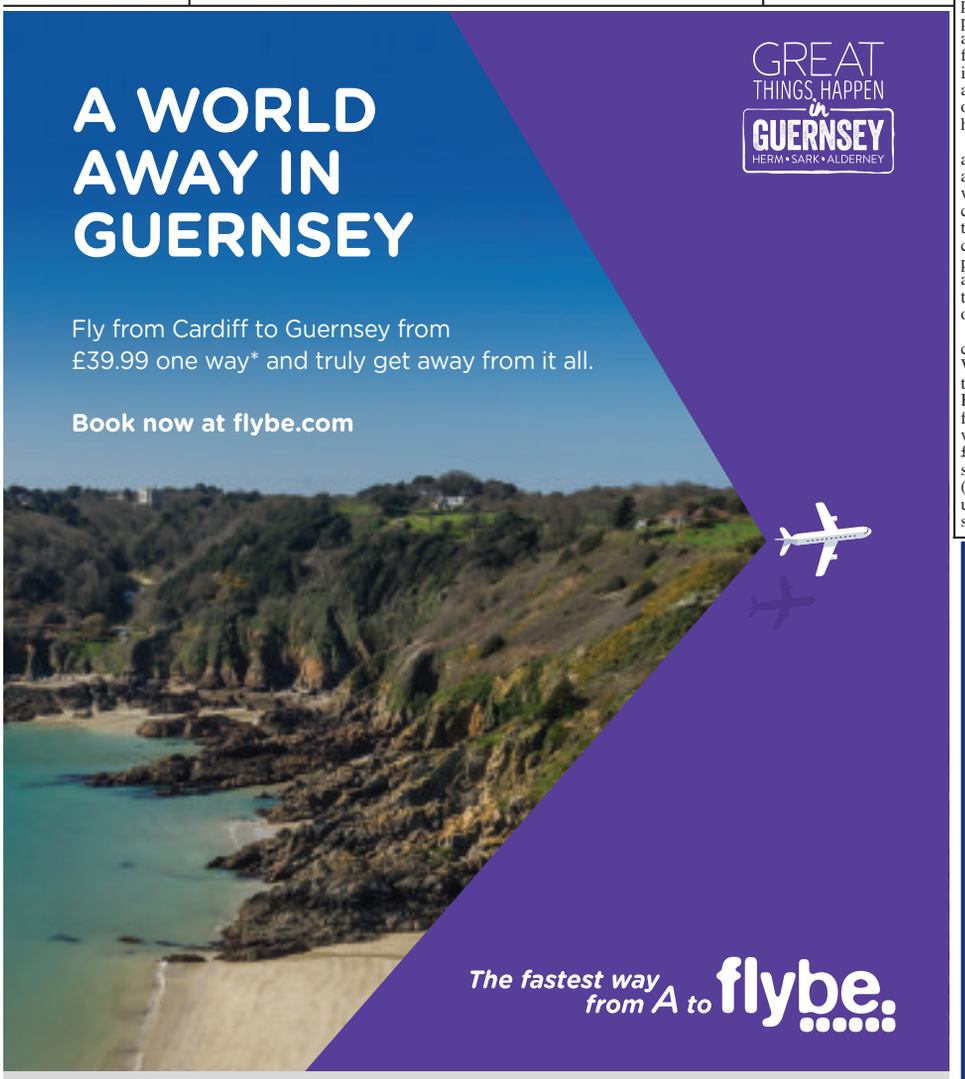
As part of the competition Wales & West Utilities will pick two winners – one from Key Stage 1 and one from Key Stage 2 –who will personally receive £150 and £300 for their school/organisation (which can include uniformed organisations such as Scouts, Brownies and Guides).

They will then go forward to a national competition where they have a chance to win £300 for themselves and £600 for their school/organisation, in addition to the area winner prize.

Each winner will also be invited to attend a ceremony in the Palace of Westminster. Entries must be received by Friday, May 5 and judging will take place by June 5.

The competition across the south west of England and Wales was recently launched by ex-Wales and British Lions rugby player, Tom Shanklin, who said: "This competition presents a fantastic opportunity for youngsters across south Wales to spread a vitally important safety message."

For more details on the competition visit www.wwutilities.co.uk/GetCreativeBeSafe or email COschoolcompetition@energynetworks.org.



*Fares are one way including taxes and charges, only available on flybe.com, subject to availability. Available for travel between 02.05.17 and 30.10.17 inclusive. Route operated by Blue Islands. No debit card fees apply. Bookings made by credit card will incur a fee of 3% of the total transaction value, with a minimum charge of £5.00 per booking.

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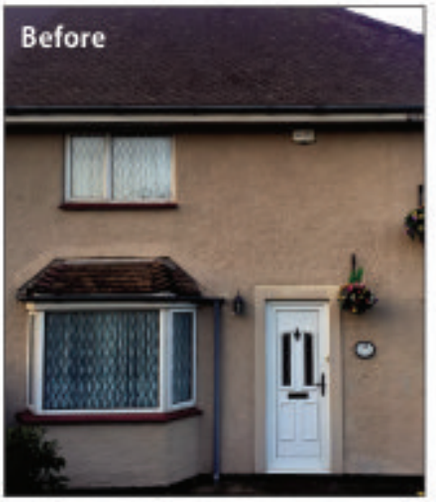

"We would like to thank local company Warmer Homes Insulation Limited for carrying out the External Wall Insulation on our home recently. We are more than delighted with the appearance and new facade of our home. Our dampness, draught and cold problems have disappeared and we are looking forward to a very cosy winter! We would like to thank Alun Pearson for all his help and advice from free initial survey to completion of install. A very special thank you to the install team Dai, Leigh and Peter who carried out the work. They were hardworking, neat tidy and true craftsmen. A companies employees are its greatest assets and your people are your product! Thank you Warmer Homes."

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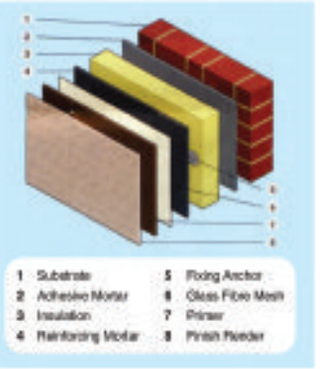

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What's on, and where?

Penarth History Society

A TALK by Ron Powell on the Battle of Britain takes place at All Saints Lesser Hall, Penarth, today February 9 at 7.30pm. Admission £2; all welcome.

Friends of Penarth Library

THE Friends of Penarth Library are holding a Valentine's Day cake sale on Saturday, February 11 between 10am and 1pm. Please come and support your local library.

Music at Lunchtime

MUSIC at Lunchtime at All Saints Church Penarth. takes place every month on the second Monday between 1pm and 2pm.

The first concert will be on Monday, February 13 at 1pm with August Guan playing J S Bach.

Doors open 12.30pm, entry is free. Bring your own lunch; teas and coffees provided. Donations towards the All Saints Church Organ Restoration Fund.

Y Bont fundraisers sought

CHILDREN'S charity Y Bont are appealing for help in organising their midsummer afternoon tea, which will take place in June this year.

If you feel that you can help, call 01656 646013 for information.

AM's surgery

VALE AM Jane Hutt will hold a surgery on February 11 from 10am – 11am at Barry Citizens Advice Bureau, 119 Broad Street, CF62 7TZ; no appointment necessary.

Valeways guided walk

ON Wednesday, February 11 at 10am meet at Pont y Werin bridge in Penarth for a circular four-mile walk of Cardiff Bay.

Community Council meeting

ST BRIDES MAJOR Community Council's next monthly meeting takes place on February 13 at All Saints Church, Southerndown at 7pm.

Transport service

ARE you a resident in the Vale who finds it difficult to access public transport, or are disabled?

Voluntary Emergency Transport Services (VEST) operate door to door services such as a Saturday shopper to Morrisons, shopping in Cardiff and more.

To find out more, register with VEST by filling in a simple form. An information session will be held at Age Connects Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry on Tuesday, February 14 from 10am to 12 noon. No appointment is needed; just come along and have a chat. Contact 01446 732385.

Friends and Neighbours

FRIENDS and Neighbours Group meets at Beryl Road Pioneer Hall monthly with the support of Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop.

Contact Gay Fifield on 01446 400044 for further information.

Phantom Trio for Valentine's Day

COMING soon for Valentine's Day – three *Phantom of The Opera* stars who have all played the lead role in *The Phantom of The Opera* are taking part in a special charity concert, guaranteed to raise the roof of the City Hall to help save lives in Wales.

All proceeds from this concert will fund heart screening sessions and place defibrillators throughout Wales with the charity Welsh Hearts.

The three Phantoms will take to the stage at the City Hall in Cardiff, on Sunday, February 12.

All of the artists have starred as The Phantom in the West End and are coming together for a great night of showstoppers – solos, duets and trio selections from the hit show as well as *Les Miserables* and popular West End and Broadway shows.

Join Luke McCall, Brian McCann and Kieran Brown for an evening of haunting solos and duets and – you get three Phantoms for the price of one!

To book tickets priced at £22 contact 02922 402670.

Gold shimmers, but doesn't linger...

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

THE McConnaissance was a phenomenon concerning Matthew McConaughey, who, after paddling in the shallow waters of awful romantic comedies, decided to tackle more substantial fare starting with 2011's *The Lincoln Lawyer*.

From there, McConaughey landed the best reviews of his career, landing an Oscar for *Dallas Buyers Club*, while delivering in films as diverse as *Interstellar* and *The Paperboy*. Yet, it seems to have gone slightly awry for the actor since, with both *The Sea of Trees* and *Free State of Jones* being met with lukewarm critical and commercial response.

He'll be hoping to redress the balance in *Gold*, which sees him play Kenny Wells, a prospector desperate for a lucky break, who teams up geologist Michael Acosta (Edgar Ramirez). The pair embark on a journey to find gold in the uncharted jungle of Indonesia, but when they strike lucky they discover that their problems are only just beginning...

The world of gold prospecting is an intriguing and murky one – ripe, then, for Hollywood to sink its teeth into, especially given that this story is one that is based on true events. All told, *Gold* is a film that is worth panning for, though its preoccupation with surface concerns rather than digging deeper into this world of gigantic money and power means that is doesn't perhaps shine as brightly as you would hope.

Given that he put on 45lbs and made himself balding for the role, Matthew McConaughey throws himself headlong into the role of Kenny Wells, a man who took his father's prosperous company into near collapse before restoring its fortunes through a trip to Indonesia. While the actor perhaps reverts to type a little too often (for all his ability, McConaughey's laconic drawl is easily, if unfairly, lampooned) it's still a charismatic turn that, while a little too familiar in its rags-to-riches-back-to-rags story, holds your attention.

Wells isn't a bad guy, just one whose inability to maintain success and grasping defeat from the jaws of victory, yet who won't lie down and take it, and McConaughey brings him to life well.

Alongside him, his partner Michael Acosta is also well-realised by the underrated Edgar Ramirez; the straight man to Wells' charismatic showman, Ramirez's turn is cool and level-headed, maintaining his composure while all around him pivots on champagne, private helicopters and more champagne, until a surprise twist throws everything in the air.

They are backed up by small but well-delivered performances from the likes of Bryce Dallas Howard as Kenny's long-time (and, you get the impression, long-suffering) girlfriend, Corey Stoll and Toby Kebbell, who all bring something to the table.

Director Stephen Gaghan is better known for writing *Traffic* and *Syriana* (which he also directed), both films that exposed the dark (or darker) underbellies of the world of drugs and oil respectively, making him a good choice to helm a film that tackles the world of prospecting. While he makes a decent fist of it, he never seems to truly get a handle on the subject matter, never really getting underneath the story, which just tends to hit the right notes at the right times and little more.

Writers John Zinman and Patrick Massett have spent much of their careers writing for episodic television, and in a way it shows here, with the film aping the likes of *The Wolf of Wall Street* in terms of structure and plotting.

There is a reveal which comes as a welcome curveball, but that aside the pair don't really create a narrative that goes below the surface, with only lip services paid when another gold prospector comes on the scene.

It does take the shine off *Gold* somewhat, that while the performances are engaging enough, the story doesn't have enough meat (nor depth) to truly satisfy – it's a film that shimmers but one that will likely fade from view post-credits.

VERDICT: A story that demanded more depth yet lacks it, *Gold* showcases decent turns from its cast but doesn't dig deep enough to find the narrative treasures that lay beneath the surface. There is a compelling tale to be told, but it's slightly mishandled, leaving the charms of the cast to drag it over the line. *Enjoyable*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Blood Diamond* (2006), *The Wolf of Wall Street* (2014).

Ty Hafan lottery draw

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D969.

- **£2,000:** 302147.
- **The rollover, which now stands at £1,500, was not won this week.**
- **£10:** 894913, 686663, 768634, 103164, 775136, 561708, 295291, 575264, 514046, 899076, 1984738, 1345432.
- **£5:** 972646, 333269, 725375, 849523, 787574, 809825, 841470, 997955, 468848, 520762, 104305, 859860, 864826, 724034, 294365, 236144, 354751, 590667, 654398, 384892, 710547, 434604, 119240, 711137, 285999, 898703, 809693, 129431, 689088, 000482, 1935789, 1146813.

259888,	903230,	138364,
456340,	153088,	180797,
542052,	155335,	000032,
724777,	395579,	930718,
581687,	158810,	348028,
585950,	473471,	586993,
410905,	418108,	582846,
371278,	274686,	744569,
795615,	717330,	472057,
684986,	583352,	832262,
164141,	374262,	386533,
606527,	001296,	1297769,

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

GVS video

GLAMORGAN Voluntary Services (GVS) has produced a short video highlighting the work of local community groups.

It is available on Facebook, Twitter or web link: vimeo.com/180309260

Contact 01446 741706, e-mail: enquiries@gvs.wales, or www.gvs.wales .

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Veterans' breakfast club is launched in Sully

Jane Hutt AM officially launched the new breakfast club.

LEFT: People enjoyed either a Welsh breakfast or an English breakfast. RIGHT Fred Johnson, secretary of Sully Sports & Social Club welcomed everybody to the launch, including most importantly veterans from around the Vale of Glamorgan.

by GEM REPORTER

On Saturday, February 4, there was an excellent turnout at Sully Sports & Social Club when the Vale of Glamorgan Veterans' Breakfast Club was launched.

It is the latest of a number of local initiatives demonstrating support for British veterans in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Among those present were veterans, family members, supporters, representatives of Armed Forces' charities and civic leaders.

Former veteran Tony Fitzpatrick told The GEM: "It was a bit far to go to a veterans' breakfast club in Cardiff and I thought 'the Vale needs one' so I approached Sully Sports & Social Club who have made us more than welcome."

Tony said the club had adopted the same principle as the Army in which Saturday mornings are a great time to meet up in the cookhouse for breakfast and be able to discuss any issues.

"The breakfast club is also a great opportunity for people to come along and meet old friends and make new ones.

"Veterans can come along between 9am and 12 noon, have some breakfast and maybe try skittles and bowls. We're already thinking of forming a veterans' breakfast team for bowls.

Organiser Tony Fitzpatrick.

"In the summer those attending will be able to have their breakfast outside with wonderful views of the Bristol Channel, and watch rugby and football in the afternoon."

There are British veterans' clubs as far afield as Spain, Bosnia, Australia, France, Germany and Austria.

Jane Hutt, the Vale's Assembly Member, officially opened the club, and said: "I was delighted to launch the Vale Veterans' Club at Sully Sports & Social Club.

"With over 12,000 veterans living in the Vale of Glamorgan we need a range of support networks and services like the new breakfast club, alongside the nine charities who joined us on Saturday such as Woody's Lodge which is up and running at HMS Cambria, with 22 support agencies backing this initiative."

On the day veterans were also welcomed by Fred Johnson, secretary of Sully Sports & Social Club, and Coun Anthony Powell, the Vale's Armed Forces champion.

There are no fees payable for veterans. All they have to do is pay for the breakfast they choose.

Armed Forces' charities also attended the event.

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Vale Podiatry is here to help!

ARE you having problems with your feet? It can be something as simple as finding it difficult to reach to cut your toenails, or pain and discomfort caused by foot deformities, skin problems, or thickened and misshapen nails.

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Angela and Sarah are both experienced podiatrists who are able to treat and advise on all foot problems.

We stock a range of foot creams, pads, insoles that are tried and tested by ourselves, you are welcome to call in and speak to our friendly receptionists who can advise you on any of our products.

Our clinics in Cowbridge and Llantwit Major both have wheelchair access and we offer a home service to those who are housebound.

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ValePodiatry Footcare for all

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Sarah Battrick BSc (Hons) Pod.M M.Ch.S

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23 High Street, Cowbridge. CF71 7AE
www.valepodiatry.co.uk

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COLLEGE FIELDS Nursing Home in Barry, is an impressive building with an elegant Edwardian facade, that has much in common with fine country houses.

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Caring for the elderly

WITH longer life expectancy, many people these days find themselves caring for elderly loved ones who are losing their independence.

It is a sadness and frustration for all concerned. However, the range and quality of products designed to help people manage without assistance that little bit longer is constantly improving.

At Ability, we make it our aim to listen to the real needs of our customers or of those they care for,.

We will do our best to search out and supply products that will make a real difference to their lives, whether by enabling a person to remain independent that little bit longer, or by supplying the products a person may find helpful in caring for their elderly relative.

Pop in for a chat and we will be happy to use our experience to offer the best advice we can.

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TeleV services offers greater independence

TELEV offers a range of services and devices which use modern technology to enable vulnerable people to live with greater independence and safety in their own home.

Telecare devices are linked to a 24-hour monitoring centre in Barry. The system can be used at any time of the day or night, 365 days a year.

Whatever the reason, if you have an accident or incident in the home or suffer from a medical emergency, an experienced operator will arrange help as quickly as possible at the touch of a button.

Our packages also offer environmental sensors, such as smoke detectors, carbon monoxide sensors and temperature extremes sensors.

If you or a loved one would like any further information about our friendly and professional service, contact us on 01446 700111 or visit www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Telecare.

The benefits of owning a cat...

HOW many people realise there are beneficial effects to owning a cat, or even just being in its company?

It has been proved that just smoothing a cat can have a calming effect on the body, lowering your blood pressure.

If you have aged parents or relatives who live on their own, they will feel less lonely in the company of a cat. They will have someone to talk to, and it will give them something to focus on.

Children brought up with cats suffer from fewer allergies. It is so sad that when someone becomes pregnant, they are sometimes advised to get rid of their cat. You can pick up more diseases by eating seafood and meat that has not been thoroughly cooked etc. Hygiene is the key word!

Children who grow up with cats will have more respect for animals and people as they get older; it gives them responsibility and companionship.

We have lots of cats in Maesteg Animal Welfare Society looking for forever homes; some have already been discarded for mundane reasons. They are not disposable items, they are looking for care and affection.

You can help us by giving a cat a loving home, or perhaps a donation through PayPal: maesteganimalwelfaresociety@yahoo.com.

For more information, call Jan 01656 721496, or Nicola on 01656 769855.

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All our work is funded by Charity Shops. Donations always welcome.

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www.maesteganimalrescue.co.uk

Thanking everyone for their continued support
Charity Number:1020630
Pleased to support the Macmillan Charity Appeal

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Ty Llandaff care home 'open day'

A LUXURY 'all inclusive' residential care home in Cardiff, which includes a spa, gym and home cinema, is opening its doors to the public this month.

Tŷ Llandaff, which sits on a multi-million pound development in the leafy suburb of Pontcanna close to Llandaff village, is holding a special open day on Sunday, February 19 from 11am to 4pm.

Home Manager Janice Evans and her dedicated team will be leading guided tours around the state-of-the-art care home, providing detailed information on life at the home and answering all questions.

Tŷ Llandaff has been built across three floors to an exceptionally high standard and boasts 70 luxurious en-suite bedrooms. Access to all the facilities is included in the weekly fees from the home cinema, piano bar and hair and nail salon to the luxury spa and gym.

Janice Evans

The care home has an on-site chef and fine dining experience and a celebrations room, which can be used for private family occasions. A dedicated activities coordinator also plans an impressive events programme every month.

Tŷ Llandaff also has the ability to accommodate people for nursing or residential care from the age of 18.

Jan, who has more than 30 years of experience managing care homes and is a registered nurse said: "Tŷ Llandaff has only been open a short while but already the care home has caught the attention of the national and local media due to our incredible facilities.

"We believe there are very few care homes in the UK that are as luxurious as what we offer here at Tŷ Llandaff so we wanted to give members of the public the opportunity to have a look for themselves.

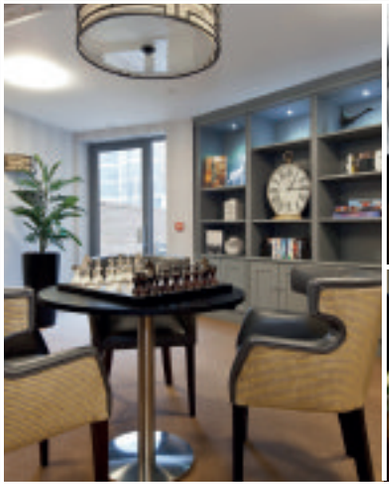
"The event has been organised to provide an insight into the fantastic lifestyle residents enjoy at the home and let them see what life at Tŷ Llandaff is really like. My team and I will be here to show people around and answer any questions. Our fabulous on-site chef will also be serving some delicious home baking with light refreshments.

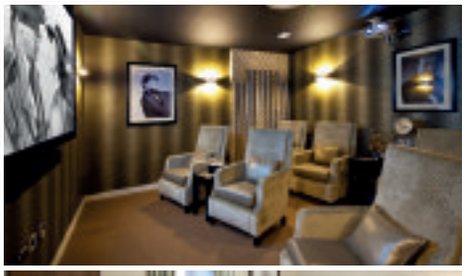
"The staff, here, are extremely proud of what we have achieved and the care we provide. We look forward to meeting everyone on Sunday, February 19."

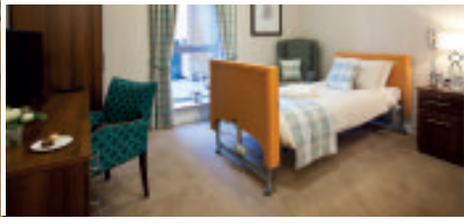
For more information about the Tŷ Llandaff open day, call Jan on 02920 600 100, email info@tyllandaffcare.com or visit www.tyllandaffcare.com

Ty Llandaff opens this month.

The Piano Bar.







TŶ LLANDAFF
CARE HOME

JOIN US AT OUR OPEN DAY EVENT

SUNDAY 19TH FEBRUARY
11AM TO 4PM

Enjoy a cup of tea, a chat and some delicious home baking. Home Manager Janice Evans and her team will be on hand to show you round our new state-of-the-art home and answer any questions you may have.

Tour Our Facilities:

En-suite Rooms | Cinema | Library | Fine Dining
Coffee Bar | Gardens | Restaurant | Gym & Salon
Activities | Chauffeur Driven Car & Mini Bus

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We look forward to welcoming you into our home.

Conway Road, Pontcanna, Cardiff CF11 9NT
www.tyllandaffcare.com

Age-related arthritis: irreversible end of pain-free living?

ARTHRITIS is a common condition which causes pain, swelling, inflammation and often stiffness in the joints of the body.

Sadly, many sufferers are told: "There is nothing that can be done outside surgery."

However, the gentle manipulative and massage approach taken by osteopaths can help many arthritis sufferers.

Treatment is individual, gently moving and stretching an arthritic joint and massaging surrounding muscles and tissues can help ease some of the discomfort.

This can often be enough to reduce pain and restore function for day-to-day activities.

For example, someone with an arthritic shoulder who couldn't raise the arm may, after a few weeks' treatment, be able to lift a kettle or raise the arm high enough so that hair can be comfortably brushed.

"Osteopathy is not limited to treating patients with arthritis.

"If you are uncertain, give me a ring, tell me your complaint, and we'll chat over the options," said Robert David, M.Ost

Consult with Rob, your 'Master of Osteopathy' in Barry (discount for over 60s) on 02921 286 706; see www.highlightosteopaths.co.uk.

Find us at 31 Lakin Drive, Highlight Park, Barry, CF62 8AH.

Expert advice can avoid Will disputes

BRENDAN SWEENEY of David Prosser & Co Solicitors writes:

It is estimated that 60 per cent of the UK population do not have a Will. A Will takes effect on your death and is an instruction as to what is to happen to your estate.

Probate disputes and challenges to Wills are becoming a growth area which often leads to substantial costs.

We now live in a world where family relationships are often very complex and expert advice regarding the drafting of a Will is essential. A professional advisor can also advise you in relation to inheritance tax and how you plan to minimise potential liabilities to inheritance tax

It is important when people make Wills that they are fully aware of their duties and financial responsibilities when they make a Will and ensure that they comply with the technicalities that are required to have a valid Will.

The cost of a professionally-drafted Will after taking advice is considerably less than the costs that can be incurred if there is a dispute regarding your financial affairs after your death.

Substantial costs can also be saved by taking professional advice early and putting in place Powers of Attorney whereby you appoint trusted people to make decisions about your property and financial affairs and health and welfare if your lose capacity.

The people appointed are made fully aware of their rights and responsibilities.

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- Offer home visits where necessary

Please contact Brendan Sweeney.

Telephone 01656 645921

E-Mail: brendansweeney@davidprosser.co.uk

3 Court Road, Bridgend CF31 1BL

David Prosser & Co is the trading name of DP Law Limited.

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If you would like more information, either email us at info@aprilcare.co.uk or call 01656 863963, for an informal chat with our friendly manager, Amelia Jones.

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RS PODIATRY is a well-established Podiatry and Chiropody practice, based at Highlight Park Medical Practice in Barry.

Rebecca is fully qualified, having gained a BSc (Hons) degree in university and she is a trusted member of The Society of Chiropodists and Podiatrists, and The Health Care Professions Council.

At RS Podiatry, our services are available to all ages, from children to the elderly – whether for the treatment or diagnosis of a specific foot problem to simple nail cutting.

We specialise in the treatment of nervous patients and can accommodate patients with impaired mobility.

At RS Podiatry, we offer a warm, friendly, professional atmosphere in a clean, clinical environment at affordable prices.

For an appointment, call 01446 734064.

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hcpc health & care professions council

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PASSMORES ASKS: 'Have you made your Will yet?

EVERY adult in the UK should consider making a Will, and here are some of the reasons why:

- Without a Will, the state directs who inherits your estate, so the people you wish to benefit may get nothing.
- Without a Will, if you are married, you may think that your estate will pass to your spouse in any event, but this is not necessarily the case.
- If you are not married to your partner, the law does not automatically recognise partners as having the same rights as husbands, wives and civil partners, and your partner may get nothing.
- If you have children, there may be uncertainty about who will look after or provide for them, should you die.
- Certain people could make a claim on your estate if you have no Will, because they may depend upon you financially.
- Inheritance tax issues may arise if not addressed in your Will.

Wills should be kept up to date and renewed upon any change of circumstances; for example, marriage, divorce, separation, death of a loved one, or upon having a child.

Excluding certain beneficiaries in your Will may also cause potential difficulties as they may have the right to make a claim against your estate.

Special care is needed if you exclude persons who might expect to benefit under your Will.

Ensure that you have a Will in place and that it is up to date, to avoid any undesired consequences and complications.

Carli Evans is a solicitor with Messrs Passmores Solicitors and a member of Solicitors for the Elderly, a specialist panel of solicitors dealing with elderly client matters and the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners.

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Find your feet with Valeways

EVER feel you should get out more? Make new friends? Keeping active is the best way for a long and healthy life, but it's sometimes difficult to get going – so Valeways makes it easy.

Says Valeways' Rebecca Exley: "Many people, including seniors, would just love to go out walking – but have got out of the habit – or need the right companions.

"Valeways Coffee Shop Stroller groups are designed for people wanting that extra bit of encouragement, and have proved a resounding success in Barry, Cosmeston, Cowbridge, and Llantwit Major.

"The walks take one hour avoiding hills and stiles. We've found that people make friends, learn something about the terrain they are walking and it's good for heart, health and wellbeing.

"The walks typically finish with some refreshment at a café – and an opportunity to socialise – which is all part of the fun.

"Walks take place every Wednesday."

Valeways Coffee Shop Strollers Walks take place at: Barry, Romily Café at 10:30am on February 22, March 8 and 22.

Cosmeston at 10:30am on February 15, March 1, 15 and 29.

Cowbridge Physic Garden 2:30pm on February 22, March 8 and 22.

Llantwit Major Town Hall at 2:30pm on February 15, March 1, 15 and 29.

For information contact info@valeways.org.uk call 01446 749000 or visit libraries for a leaflet.

VALEWAYS
Coffee Shop Strollers Walks take place at:

BARRY, ROMILLY CAFE
10.30am - 22 Feb, 8 & 22 March.

COSMESTON
10.30am - 15 Feb, 1, 15 & 29 March.

COWBRIDGE PHYSIC GARDEN
2.30pm - 22 Feb, 8 & 22 March.

LLANTWIT MAJOR TOWN HALL
2.30pm - 15 Feb, 1, 15 & 29 March.

VALE DOG ADVENTURES

MY name is Eva Armstrong, and I run Vale Dog Adventures, your dog walking and pet sitting service for the Vale of Glamorgan.

At Vale Dog Adventures, I like to help people who love their dogs and want to provide them with the essential exercise they need, even when owners are unable to walk for reasons such as ill health, work or other commitments.

I deliver excellent customer service for both owners and their dogs and I am fully insured and registered with the National Association for Pet Sitters and Dog Walkers.

I offer fun-filled walks for your dogs, either in small groups or one-to-one. I can also help by looking after your cats and other pets, and can take them to the vet or groomer when needed.

I am also happy to accompany you and your dog on your walks.

For more information, contact me on 07554 002665.

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ROZ COUZENS has announced new opening hours on Saturdays, by appointment.

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"I can remove hard skin uncomfortable corns, and all other foot concerns, finishing with a gentle massage.

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CHIROPODIST
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Plan ahead to make life easier

THE specialists at Glamorgan Law can help make your life easier by helping you to put your affairs in order. We offer advice and assistance with making Wills and Lasting Powers of Attorney in a friendly and professional way.

Making a Will ensures that your wishes are carried out following your death. It enables you to appoint executors to deal with your estate and set out whom you wish to inherit your estate. If you die without a Will it can lead to complications and anxiety for your loved ones.

'Lasting Powers of Attorney' are documents you prepare whilst you are well which allow you to choose the people you would want to make decisions for you in relation to your money and your health if you become unwell in the future.

Make life easier for you and your loved ones by planning ahead and putting these important legal documents in place.

For advice and guidance, contact Jane Chesterman, Laura Wishart or Joanna Fenoulhet of Glamorgan Law LLP, The Pavilion, 60 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7AB on 01446 771 742. We're here to help!

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LEFT: The Glamorgan GEM is actively involved in raising funds for Marie Curie, which provides care and support for people living with a terminal illness. Here, (left to right) Vanessa, Jan and Wendy are raising money at the Vale Show.

Get involved in the Marie Curie Great Daffodil Appeal 2017

THE Great Daffodil Appeal urgently needs two hours of your time to collect donations, so Marie Curie Nurses can care for more people living with a terminal illness – and their families.

Every March, millions of people show their support by giving a donation and wearing a daffodil. Every hour you donate, every penny you raise, every daffodil worn – it all helps fund crucial hours of care.

One person who has a special reason to support Marie Curie is Kevin, who explained: "My first wife, Sylvia, received wonderful care from Marie Curie at the end of her life. Collecting is my tribute to her."

"It takes a special kind of person to be a Marie Curie Nurse. Sylvia was one of these.

"She worked at a Marie Curie Hospice and, when she became ill with cancer, that's also where she spent her final days.

"When she was ill, I knew that I couldn't do justice to looking after her, in the way she deserved to be. So it made perfect sense for her to be in the care of those who could.

To register as a collector, go to https://t.campaign.mariecurie.org.uk/webApp/mcc_supporterRegistration

Kelvin supports the Daffodil Appeal in memory of his late wife.

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The Mayor will be holding a Charity Coffee Morning on Wednesday 1st March from 10 - 12noon in the Plaza of Llandough Hospital. Enjoy one of The Mayors Award Winning Home Made Welsh Cakes and listening to the Llandough Hospital Choir.

Bydd y Maer yn dathlu Dydd Gŵyl Dewi gyda Bore Coffi Elusennol ddydd Mercher 1 Mawrth o 10am tan hanner dydd ym Mhlasa Ysbyty Llandochau. Dewch i fwynhau un o Bicau ar y Maen Penigamp y Maer a gwrando ar Côr Ysbyty Llandochau!

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and members of the Town Council wish the Daffodil Campaign every success
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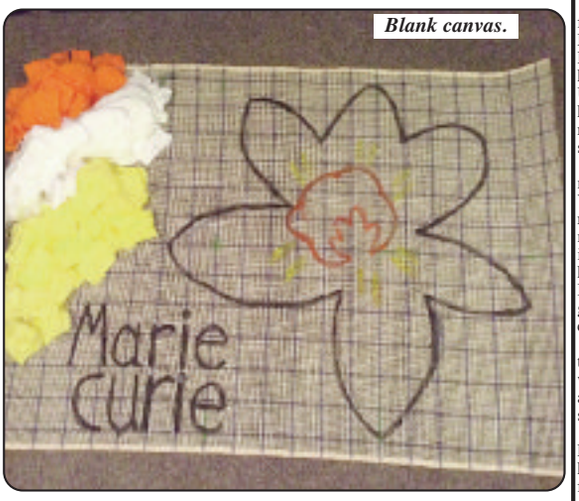
Marie Curie
Care and support through terminal illness
Marie Curie Cancer Care

CAN YOU HELP TO CREATE A DAFFODIL MURAL AT HOSPICE?

CAN you help create a giant daffodil for Marie Curie? Staff at the charity's Penarth hospice are calling on knitters to help creative a wall mural of the Marie Curie logo – but need help from patients, family and supporters.



Blank canvas.

Healthcare assistant Aimee-Leigh Williams and staff nurse Gwyneth Davies have been coming up with creative ideas for patients to get involved in. Marie Curie hospices provide round-the-clock expert care and support to people living with a terminal illness and their families.

"We are asking patients who are willing to knit us a patch, which will then be added to the mural, over time creating a patchwork," said Gwyneth.

"This appeal began before Christmas, and we would like to see the daffodil put up for March 1, so time is now of the essence.

"Along with the wall art, there's a book for the makers to record the coordinates of their patch, along with their names. We are now asking for patches measuring around 20 stiches by 20 rows, and would like people to knit with wool from Shaws, and in white or yellow.

"The wool is Marriners' double knit and the pattern is: knit each row (garter stitch). Wool and needles are available from staff on the first floor ward.

"We are very excited about this project and hope people can help."

If you can help, contact the hospice on 029 2042 6000 and ask for Aimee-Leigh or Gwyneth. For more information on how to get involved in the Great Daffodil Appeal, call 0800 304 7025.

Bob (88) and Tina (90) meet Cupid at Blind Veterans' charity lunch

A Vale couple in their eighties are looking forward to celebrating on Valentine's Day – after finding love through national military charity Blind Veterans UK.

Bob Hicks, 88 and from Barry, met Tina Morgan, 90 and from Dinas Powys, at a lunch held by Blind Veterans UK. Both Bob and Tina have been widowed and received free specialist support from the charity.

Bob says: "When I met Tina at the Blind Veterans UK lunch we really hit it off. Within a month of meeting, I invited her to come on holiday with me because I was nervous about going on my own and she ended up saying yes.

"Since then, we've travelled all over the world together. It's amazing that we get on so well."

Bob served in the Royal Air Force during his National Service from 1947. He completed his training at RAF Bawdsey in Suffolk and then served in the Air Traffic Control unit in Gloucester.

He was discharged two years later in 1949, as an Aircraftman.

Bob said: "My job in the RAF was to prevent all radio signals from being intercepted.

"It was very interesting work and I enjoyed it a lot.

"I met my wife in the RAF and I remember those days as some of the happiest ones of my life."

It was years later that Bob's sight started to deteriorate because of a genetic disease, macular dystrophy. He was registered sight-impaired in 2011.

Bob says: "My sight loss was gradual and I didn't notice it at first. It seemed to go through cycles of degenerating, stabilising for a while and then degenerating again. It was very disruptive and eventually I had to give up my job."

Fortunately, Bob met another veteran who was being supported by Blind Veterans UK, who encouraged him to contact the charity.

He started to receive free specialist support from the charity in 2015.

Bob said: "Blind Veterans UK has been very good to me. They've given me some brilliant equipment to help me with my sight loss. I have a reading aid which means that I can blow up type to a much larger size.

"It's given me a bit of independence again, because now I can read my own letters."

Tina has been in contact with Blind Veterans UK for many years, as her late veteran husband, John ,had also been supported after he lost his sight.

When John passed away in 2003, Tina continued to receive support from the charity and attend its social events.

Tina said: "Before Blind Veterans UK came into our lives John used to be too nervous to leave the house.

"But through the charity, John met other blind veterans and he came out of his shell. The help for John was simply wonderful."

When Bob was at his first ever Blind Veterans UK lunch club in 2010, he was introduced to Tina and they discovered they had lots to talk about.

Bob says: "I was a bit uncertain about going to the lunch club, but I had lots of fun chatting to Tina. From then on, we have been inseparable and gone on one holiday after another.

"We've been all over Europe and even to Thailand and Singapore. It's been quite the adventure."

Tina says: "People don't know how marvellous Blind Veterans UK is. I want to spread the word because everyone should know.

" I feel that Bob looks after me more than I look after him. I'm so grateful that we have met because we always have a marvellous time together. We are very lucky."

Blind Veterans UK is the national charity for blind and vision-impaired ex-Service men and women, providing vital practical and emotional support to help veterans discover life beyond sight loss.

The charity estimates that there could be as many as 170 blind veterans in the Vale of Glamorgan who would be eligible to access its specialist support, most of whom are not currently aware of it.

If you, or someone you know, served in the Armed Forces or did National Service and is now battling severe sight loss, find out how Blind Veterans UK could help by calling 0800 389 7979 or visiting noonealone.org.uk.

Find out more at: www.blindveterans.org.uk, and follow us on Facebook at: facebook.com/blindveteransuk and on Twitter at: twitter.com/blindveterans

Successful fair proves model railways are still popular

THE recent Barry Toy and Train Fair at the Holm View Leisure Centre organised by Chris Dyer Toys Fairs was a success!

It was well attended by dealers and customers and collectors, with a wide variety of dealers from many parts of the UK.

It was estimated that more than 350 people came through the doors, and it made for a great family day out.

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Ever been spun a yarn or two?
Every fibre of your being wants to scream.
Had the wool pulled over your eyes?
Believed the fabrication of fools?
Ever lost the thread or been hanging by one?
And in this tapestry of life,
had your trust in material things?
Look to the one who upholds everything;
He knows all our pain:
The one who has been here before us
and the one who is coming again.
He will fasten your foundation, and weave everything in its place.
His love will set your heart on fire, his grace will give you peace.
Jesus, living word, hears our prayers.
Tie up loose ends; bind and repair.
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Miraculous intervention will get us there.

Kasey Starr, Barry.

NATIONAL TRUST MEETING

THE next meeting of the Vale Association will be on Wednesday, February 15 at 7.30pm in The Duke of Wellington, Cowbridge, when local historian Gavin Davies will speak on 'A Georgian Crime Story'.

New members are always welcome. The Association will be looking for new committee members at the AGM in April.

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BUILDING EXCELLENCE AWARDS FOR 2017 AND VALE MAINTAINS 'HIGHEST QUALITY'

THE 14th Vale of Glamorgan Council Building Control Group Building Excellence awards were held at the Vale Resort, Hensol on January 27.

The evening was attended by the Mayor of the Vale, Coun Stuart Egan and his consort Nigel Gibbs; the chair of planning committee, Coun Frederick Johnson, Deputy Vale Leader and cabinet member for regeneration and education, Coun Lis Burnett, and head of service for regeneration and planning Marcus Goldsworthy.

The event was also attended by Victoria Robinson, operational manager of development management, together with the building control team.

Sponsors of the event are The Glamorgan GEM, Nina and Rob of Nina Estate Agents, Jewsons of Barry, ACD Recycling & Skip Hire, and Ivorfire.

Coun Johnson said: "The nominations in every category were of the very highest quality and I congratulate all the winners, who will now have the chance to compete against the winners from 13 other councils in south Wales in the South Wales Building Excellence awards 2017. This will be held at the Vale of Glamorgan Hotel and Spa Resort, Hensol on April 21, hosted by Roy Noble.

"I am also hopeful that some of these schemes will go forward to the Building Excellence Award national finals which will be held in London in November, especially as we were lucky enough to have a national winner in 2013 and finalists in 2014, 2015 and 2016.

"The awards have shown the quality of work that is being undertaken throughout the Vale of Glamorgan and we are proud to be rewarding and encouraging quality in the construction industry.

"Our thanks must also go to the sponsors, who have enabled the event to be firmly placed in the annual diary."

The evening also raised a massive £519 on the night for NSPCC Cymru.

The award winners who will go forward to the South Wales event are: -

Category Extensions and Alterations: Westgate Building Services for Southra Farm, Dinas Powys.

Best Change of Use or Conversion: Mr David Frost for Trumpton House, Court Road, Barry.

Best Individual New Home: MRJ Properties for Dryslwyn, Wick.

Best Social Housing Project: Jehu Project Services Ltd for Cwrt Col-Huw, Llantwit Major.

Best Public Service Building: Laing O'Rourke for the extension at Llandough Hospital.

Best Partnership Project: DS Properties for the Tramshed, Cardiff.

Best Site Agent: Stephen Northam of Taylor Wimpey.

Best Local Builder: ACV Construction for various works in the Vale of Glamorgan.

The council wish all of the above schemes good luck in progressing to the National Awards finals.

'Highly Commended' MRJ Properties Ltd.

Winner Best Site Agent: Stephen Northam of Taylor Wimpey.

Winner, Best Individual New Home: MRJ Properties for Dryslwyn, Wick.

Winner, Best Local Builder: ACV Construction for various works in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Winner, Category Extensions and Alterations: Westgate Building Services for Southra Farm, Dinas Powys.

'We are proud to be rewarding and encouraging quality in the construction industry.'

'Highly Commended' in Best Individual Home

Winner, Best Partnership Project: DS Properties for the Tramshed, Cardiff.

Winner, Best Public Service Building: Laing O'Rourke for the extension at Llandough Hospital.

Winner, Best Change of Use or Conversion: Mr David Frost for Trumpton House, Court Road, Barry.

Finalists also received awards.

Maria Webber (right) thanked the sponsors of the event, The Glamorgan GEM, Nina Estate Agents, Jewsons of Barry, ACD Recycling & Skip Hire and Ivorfire.

Winner, Best Social Housing Project: Jehu Project Services Ltd for Cwrt Col-Huw, Llantwit Major.

'Highly Commended': Wayne Moore Construction Ltd.

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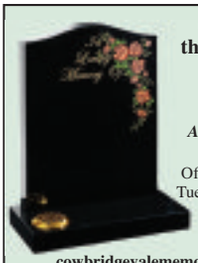

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Family Notices

SIVYER
Pauline Mary

Peacefully at home with her family around her aged 74, on Sunday, 5th February 2017. Adored wife of Gordon for almost 55 years. Beloved mother to Nina, Nicola, Ian and David and much loved nanny Lassie to Emma, Steven, Lee, Francesca, Shannon, Jack and Alexandra, also great nanny Lassie to Tyler, Joshua and Chloe. Much loved mother-in-law to David, Arabella, Jerry and Anna.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major until the funeral service at Our Lady & St Illtyds Church, Llantwit Major on Thursday, 16th February at 10.30am, followed by interment at Boverton Cemetery at 11.30am.

Special thanks to out of hours doctor Mary Lydon who showed so much care and respect and made sure Pauline's suffering was minimal. Thanks to Dr McGovern, the district nurses and especially the Marie Curie nurses who lovingly tended to Pauline three times a day for four days.

Family flowers only please, however donations in lieu of flowers can be made to Marie Curie nurses.

BRINN
Howard

Peacefully on January 31st at the University Hospital of Wales, Howard aged 87 years of Wenvoe (60 years in the car trade). Beloved husband of the late Marjorie, much loved father of Chris and Andrew, dear father-in-law of Debbie, loving grandfather to Thomas, Aimee and Gemma.

He will be greatly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at the private funeral home of J Pidgeon & Son, 539 Cowbridge Road East, Victoria Park until the funeral on Wednesday, 15th February. Service at the chapel at 11am and afterwards at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry at 12 noon. Family flowers only, donations, if desired, to British Heart Foundation, c/o Richard Lockett, 35 Claremont, Malpas, Newport, NP20 6PJ.

REES
Barbara Eileen

Peacefully at the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff, on January 28th, Barbara of Station Street, Barry. Dearly beloved wife of Peter, much loved mum of Peter, mother-in-law of Kelly. Adored nanny Barbara of Megan and Emily, loving sister of John, Susan and Leslie.

Barbara will be sadly missed by all her loving family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son Funeralcare, Gladstone Road, Barry, until her funeral service in the chapel on Tuesday, February 21st at 10am, followed by interment at Barry cemetery at 11am. Family flowers only, donations, in lieu of flowers, to Diabetes UK.

BROWN
Robert William 'Bob'

Peacefully at Llandough Hospital on 28th January. Robert, much loved husband to Janet and a loving dad to Robbie, Billy and Janie.

He will be sadly missed by all who loved and knew him.

A service will take place to celebrate Robert's life on Friday, 10th February at the Cardiff & Vale Crematorium Barry at 1pm. If you are unable to attend the service, the family would appreciate you attending the Liberal Club, Thompson Street after the service. Family flowers only by request.

Resting at Robert D Johnson Independent Funeral Directors, 29 Holton Road, Barry. Enquiries on 01446 733844.

HELLIWELL
Roger Glyn

Passed away at home on 2nd February 2017. Much loved husband to Margaret, father to Stephen and Cathy, grandfather to Sasha, William, Louie and Lexie.

Roger will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at James Summers and Son, Roath Court Funeral Home, Newport Road, Cardiff until his funeral service on Friday, 17th February at Holy Cross Church Cowbridge at 12 noon, followed by interment at the Limes Cemetery 12.45pm.

No flowers by family request, donations if so desired to Marie Curie may be made at the service. Any enquiries tel 02920 484506.

GINN
Revd D Vivian

On Friday, 3 February, at the Princess of Wales Hospital Bridgend, Vivian of Llantwit Major, dearly loved and devoted husband of late wife Grace, much loved and cherished father of Monique and Robert, dear father-in-law of Andrew and Susan and loving grandpa of Jonathan and Timothy.

Funeral Thursday, 16 February, service midday at St Illtuds Church, Llantwit Major, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 1.45pm. Family flowers only, donations may be sent to the British Lung Foundation c/o J.James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ.

EVANS
Kenneth Idris (Ken)

26.12.1938 - 01.02.17

After a long illness, Ken passed away at the University Hospital of Wales, aged 78 years. Beloved husband of Mags and much loved father to Sean, Alison and Julie. Much loved gramp and granddad.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare, Gladstone Road, Barry until his service in the funeral home chapel on Friday, 17 February at 4pm, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematoroum, Barry at 5pm. Immediate family flowers only. Donations may be made to Kidney or Cancer Research.

LLOYD - COLLINS
Mavis Kathleen

Unexpectedly but peacefully on January 30th at the University Hospital of Wales, Mavis sadly passed away. She was well known for her time at Dan Evans Department Store, Barry, where she fitted shoes for customers of the community over many years. A beloved wife to the late Phil, much loved mum of Peter, Janis, the late Michael and Kay. An adored nan to all her grandchildren, great grandchildren and great great grandchildren. Special sister to Ian.

She will be greatly missed by all her family and many friends.

Mavis is in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry, until being received into St Helen's RC Church, Barry on Thursday, February 16th at 4.30pm.

Requiem Mass to be held on Friday, February 17th at 10.30am, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium.

Family floral tributes only. Donations, if desired, may be made at the service or via Mavis' online tribute page at www.valefuneralservice.co.uk where you are also welcome to leave your personal messages and memories.

All donations received to support Ty Hafan Children's Hospice In Wales in memory of Mavis.

PRICHARD
Eleanor (Lynne)

Widow of Canon T.J. Prichard, beloved mother of Linda, Hawys and Elin, grandmother of Laura and Tom, Sara and William, and great-grandmother of Molly Rose, has died peacefully at the age of 96 after suffering a major stroke two weeks ago.

She was cared for by the NHS with exemplary kindness and skill, first at University College Hospital in London and then at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend.

The funeral will be held at Coychurch Crematorium, CF35 6AB, on February 17th at 11am. A memorial service will be held at a later date at her parish church in Gwynedd.

Family flowers only - if you would like to make a donation please support the Stroke Association, Unit 8, Cae Gwyrdd, Greenmeadow Springs Business Park, Tongwynlais, Cardiff, CF15 7AB.

SQUIRE
Margaret

Peacefully on January 28 at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, Margaret of Welsh St. Donats, beloved wife of Mansel, loving mum of Kate and David.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Tuesday, February 14, service and cremation 1.45pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Velindre Cancer Centre c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3DZ.

MARSH
Colin

Passed away at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, despite the excellent and attentive care of medical staff. Beloved husband to Anne and much loved father to Sally, Steve, Tracey, Louise and Kelly. Cherished grandfather and great grandfather.

Colin will be sadly missed by all that knew him.

Funeral service and a celebration of Colin's life will be held on Wednesday, 15th February in Our Lady & St Illtyd Catholic Church, Llantwit Major at 2pm, followed by Coychurch Crematorium. Family flowers only please, but donations in lieu of flowers to the British Heart Foundation c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3DZ.

GOVIER
Ian

Peacefully on Monday, 23rd January 2017. Ian of Rhoose, dearly loved and loving husband of Pam, loving father to Jason and Adam and daughter-in-laws Tracey and Jodi. Much loved gramps/taid to Josef, Sadie, Poppy, Isobel, Tilly, Osian and Lola.

Funeral on Tuesday, 14th February at 12 noon at Cardiff and the Vale Natural Burial Meadow, St Nicholas, Cardiff, where a celebration of his life will be held. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to Macmillan Cancer Support c/o Green Willow Funerals.

All enquires to Green Willow Funerals, 21a Station Road, Dinas Powys, CF64 4DE. Tel: 029 2051 4627.

RATCLIFF
Valerie (Val)

Peacefully on February 4 at Ty Dyfan Residential Home, Barry, Val, aged 90 years and dearly loved wife to the late Jack (Bill). Devoted mother of Michael, Tony and the late Derek, respected mother-in-law of Alison. A precious nan to all her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

She will be sadly missed by all her family and friends

Val is in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, Barry until her funeral service at Salem Baptist Church, Beryl Road, Barry on Thursday, February 16 at 10am, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery. Family flowers only please.

GRIFFITHS
Barbara Jean 'Jeanie'

(Little Hall Cottage, St Hilary)

Peacefully at home on February 4, wife of the late Reg, mother of Oscar.

Funeral service at 1.30pm on Thursday, February 16 at St Hilary Church. Jeanie will be coming home to Little Hall Cottage where visitors are welcome on Saturday, February 11 and Sunday, February 12 from 12 noon to 2pm and 5pm to 7pm; other times by arrangement. Flowers directly to Little Hall Cottage.

Enquiries to Thomas Brothers Funeral Directors, 01446 775681.

KIDD
Steven James

Suddenly on the 31st January 2017, Steven of Llantwit Major. Dearly loved son of Jim and Chyrel and brother of Debbie.

He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major until the funeral service on Tuesday, 21 February in Coychurch Crematorium at 2.15pm.

Acknowledgment

GRIFFITHS
Dorothy (Dot) née Wride

The family wish to thank all those who attended Dot's funeral and those who sent messages of sympathy and donations for Marie Curie in memory of Dot.

Thanks also to the staff at Marie Curie Hospice Penarth for their care, to Father Ben Andrews for the meaningful service and staff at A.G. Adams Funeral Directors for their support.

JONES
Colin Ray

Suddenly on January 31st at Llandough Hospital - Colin, well known as '88' during his many years at Dow Corning, Barry. Devoted husband to Margaret, cherished dad of Angie, Nicky, Claire, Mathew, Adam and the late Jenny. An adored grandad and great grandad to all his grandchildren.

Colin will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Resting at The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until a celebration of his life at Cadoxton Methodist Church, Barry on Monday, February 13th at 1.30pm, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery. Flowers may be sent to the funeral home or donations, if desired, may be made at the service or via Colin's online tribute page at www.valefuneralservice.co.uk where personal messages may also be made. All donations received will support Velindre Hospital in memory of Colin.

DAVIDSON
Joyce

Mother of Philip, Rosemary and Paul.

Died peacefully on 22nd January 2017.

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In Memory

IN MEMORY
Wilfred Davies (Wilf)

To my dearly loved husband and dad of Sandy, passed away on 8 February 2015.

We will always remember you,
miss and love you so very much
Val & Sandy xxx

MOLLART
Shirley Vivienne

3 July 1933 - 9 February 2015

Beloved sister of Val, Hazel, Gren and Dee. Dear sister-in-law of Marian and the late Stan. Devoted auntie of Rebecca, Julia, Alex and Fiona.

Thoughts go back to happy days, when we were all together, the family chain is broken now but memories live forever.

NORTHWAY
William Job (Bill)

Passed away 4th February 2014

In our hearts you will always stay, loved and remembered every day.

All our love, Eunice, Jane, Tosh, Esther, Mike, Caroline, Tiernan and grandchildren and great grandchildren xxx

COOPER
Stanley Lewis

(11 February 2012)

Five years have passed since you were taken from us, you will always be the brightest star shining back at us.

Love from Angela, Lewis & Chloe xxx

Lost

MISSING DOG

Max went missing on his walk at Llandow Trading Estate on Friday 27th January.
We are desperate to get him back. **If you have seen him, please call Sharon on 07722 427725 or Sally on 07500 774527.**

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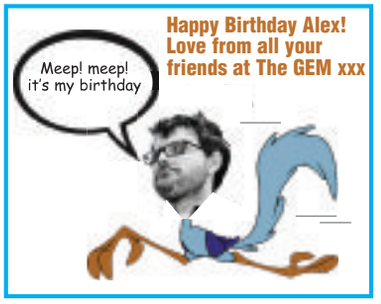
Please contact Chris Coleman or Kaine Gabriel at finance@cardiffaviation.com or call 01446 753060

Valentine Anniversary

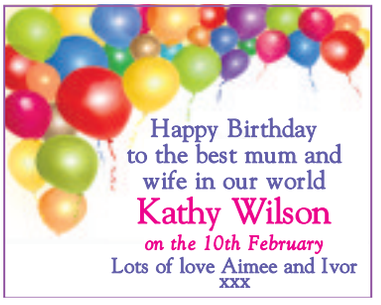
Happy Valentine's Anniversary to Megeve John
We've been together now for 30 years and it ain't been a day too long.
(Love from you know who) xx

Birthdays

A Big Happy Birthday Vanessa
With love from all your friends at The GEM xxx



Happy Birthday Alex! Love from all your friends at The GEM xxx



Happy Birthday to the best mum and wife in our world
Kathy Wilson
on the 10th February
Lots of love Aimee and Ivor xxx

Birthdays

Happy 18th Birthday Kiah!
18
Kiah Rose Best
for 12th February
With love and pride we've watched you grow and are so proud of the beautiful young woman you have become. Wishing you health and happiness always - may all your dreams come true.

Love always from
Clan Tippins aka Dad, Zoe, Reggie, Uncle Jason, Auntie Kay, Grandad and Grandma xxx

Valentine Messages

Adam Turner
Every day spent with you are moments I will always treasure. I love you more & more with each day that passes. Yours always, Lisa Snooks xxx

R
Over 30 years of wedded bliss,
A marriage just for two,
I'd like to send a loving kiss &
Say that I love you.
J

To my gorgeous husband
On our first Valentine's day as Mr & Mrs Snatchfold
How long will I love you?
As long as there are stars above you and longer if I can...
Love from your gorgeous wife xxx

Alex

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www.glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Found

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Penarth Hockey Club news round-up

DEVIZES 0, PENARTH 1

With several key players unavailable, Penarth took a streamlined first XI squad on their furthest away day of the season, looking to avoid a potential banana skin at Devizes and become the first team to leave with three points this season.

Penarth were forced onto the back foot in the opening exchanges and had to dig in deep to preserve their clean sheet. However, after settling and becoming wise to Devizes' tactics, the Bears soon began to move the ball around better, getting out of contact quicker to end the first half with the upper hand even though neither side created any real chances and headed into half-time goalless.

The second period proved to be much the same, with Devizes continuing their physical approach and breaking down of play, which turned the game into a very scrappy affair, with little flow to proceedings and not much attractive hockey being played.

From very early on, a rare goalless draw for the hitherto free-scoring Penarth side looked to be a real possibility but, midway through the first half, the Bears had made a tactical change and moved Chris Baker from right midfield to striker to give him more of a free role and utilise his dribbling skills and pace.

The change paid off immediately, as Penarth looked more dangerous on the counter, and Baker, picking the ball up deep in his own half, went on one of his trademark mazy runs, beating several defenders for pace down the right wing and smashing his shot inches wide for what would of been a goal of the season contender.

Baker would also play a part in the game's deciding moment. With the clock entering the final ten minutes, Joe Thomas made a fine tackle on Devizes' right winger before finding his team-mate on halfway with a reverse stick pass up the line. Baker drove infield, drawing the defence with him before spotting the run of David Joyce, who had peeled to the left into the 'D'.

Having been picked out with a disguised pass, Joyce made no mistake, smashing his shot through the 'keeper's legs to score what looked to be the wining goal.

Despite taking the initiative, Penarth had to dig deep to see out the final few minutes, led by man of the match Andy Strong. Devizes had one last chance to draw level with a penalty corner on the final whistle, but the Bears charged down the shot and cleared their lines to claim a vital 1-0 victory.

PENARTH A 2, CARDIFF UNIVERSITY B 3

The second XI welcomed runaway De Cymru 1 leaders Cardiff University to Stanwell knowing that a victory would be hard to come by and well aware of the threat the visitors posed following a bruising first encounter earlier in the season.

The Bears started well and pressed the students hard, forcing a high turnover of their own and winning a penalty corner, but, when that went unconverted, the students settled into their rhythm and started to dominate.

The university side passed the ball quickly and accurately and, attacking in numbers, showed why they are out of sight at the top of the league. It took some excellent tackling and some superb saves from goalkeeper Mark Harris to maintain parity on the scoreboard but, eventually, the students grabbed the opener in fortunate fashion, with the ball being deflected just in front of Harris to give the 'keeper no chance.

Penarth's task soon doubled as, despite Harris again being forced into action to deny the students' initial effort, the rebound fell to an unmarked forward who flicked the ball from the top of the 'D' into the top corner.

At 2-0 down, the Bears finally started to maintain greater possession, and their experience started to show as they grabbed the momentum and started to dominate the game.

The second half saw more of the same from the Bears, with Docherty and debutant Keegan Hoare defending aggressively to win turnovers high in midfield, which allowed Penarth to continue dominating the game.

Phil Lane and Tom Parkinson were served well by the turnover ball, but were unable to convert pressure into goals, with Lane being denied by the keeper on several occasions when a goal looked like it was coming.

Penarth almost grabbed a goal back with 20 minutes to play, as Sam Chick drew the keeper and slipped the ball to Chris McCarthy, but his effort was stopped by a defender's foot, with a covering defender on the line meaning that only a penalty corner was forthcoming despite Penarth pleading for a penalty stroke.

As the Vale side continued to press, the University always looked like they might grab a third on the break and with 10 minutes to play, the resistance was broken, and Cardiff eventually got a third – and ultimately important – goal.

Penarth reduced the deficit back with seven minutes on the clock, James Kidby smashing home a Lane pass, and then added a second in the final two minutes, with Lane again the provider, this time finding Chick, who slipped the ball under the onrushing keeper. With team spirit showing and the goals finally coming, the Bears believed they could salvage a deserved point, but it was not to be and Cardiff hung on to run out 3-2 winners.

GWENT B 3, PENARTH B 2

The thirds travelled to Cwmbran to play a Gwent side they had already beaten twice this season, well aware that another victory would all but secure promotion from De Cymru 3. However, Penarth started slowly and were clearly second best to a young Gwent team in both possession and territory.

Despite a Dave Watkins goal, the visitors never looked comfortable and a well-worked goal brought Gwent level. A second Watkins effort restored Penarth's lead, only to be cancelled out just before half-time by another Gwent goal, and it was clear that the Vale side had a game on their hands.

A half-time reshuffle designed to bolster the Penarth midfield seemed to be working, with the Bears finally getting back into the game, only for an injury to the influential Richard Skone to hand control of the game back to Gwent ten minutes into the period. This setback eventually resulted in the third goal, as the hosts benefited from the slightest of deflections after a speculative hit into the Penarth 'D'.

Further goals should have come for Gwent, but some good goalkeeping by Jason Harris, combined with a few well-timed defensive tackles and a handful of bad misses kept Penarth in the game going into the last ten minutes. Pushing forward, the Bears won a series of penalty corners, but failed to convert any, before the game ended in frustrating fashion as James Kerr Smith's put the ball into the roof of the Gwent net, only for the effort to be disallowed.

SWANSEA CITY C 0, PENARTH C 2

Penarth C travelled to face their Second City rivals on Saturday and came away with a hugely creditable, hard-fought and well-deserved 2-0 victory.

The personnel available meant that the 'C-Siders' had to ditch the formation that had served them so well in previous weeks and go with an attacking three-forward line-up.

However, early in the second half, and following a well worked penalty corner, Rawson finally able to broke the deadlock, taking his chance from close range to give the Swansea 'keeper little chance.

As the home side then pressed for an equaliser, they left themselves open to the break, and it was from one of numerous counters that Friedl doubled the 'C-Siders' advantage with his first goal for the club and the visitors duly ran out 2-0 winners.

CL

NEWS FROM RHOOSE LIFEGUARDS

RHOOSE Lifeguards Club celebrated another successful year of competitions, lifesaving awards and other events over the year.

2016 was been a busy year for the club with members from the Nipper, Junior, Senior and Masters age groups congratulated on their efforts in the various competitions and awards achieved.

As well as the excellent competitive performances over the year, the club also thanked all of the club members, parents and helpers who are involved with committee duties, fund-raising and coaching help with the club.

The 2016 series of events started with the Stillwater pool competitions in early spring. The Rhoose Ski Race took place in May followed with the summer Welsh and GB Ocean Champs and the usual Carnivals, completing the competitive element for the club.

A number of the junior and senior members of the club travelled to Portreath, Cornwall to represent Wales as part of the Welsh Surf Lifesaving team.

To finish off at the summer, some junior and senior club members also travelled to Holland and competed in the World Championships and came away with some pretty impressive results.

A summary of the individual and club successes: best first year Junior - Emily Parker; Most Improved Paddler - Tesni Gardiner; Best Junior - Brooke Peterson; Lifeguard of the Year - Jason Grice; Toudic Cup (winner of the Nipper Race) - Xantia Hobrough, Evie Wong; Winner for junior/senior/master – Jason Grice; Kevin Rowlands Trophy - Kelsea Petersen; Sarah Thompson - Kelsea Peterson; The Fontygary Pool award – Dominic Lee.

The Margaret Cooper Award (presented for outstanding contribution) was awarded to both Steph and Colin who have worked tirelessly for the club over the past years and we wanted to show our sincere thanks for this.

It was a bumper year for awards last year and we currently have 34 qualified lifeguards amongst our members.

We are also please to announce that we had Michelle Wall, Sarah Bryant and Steve Baker qualify as trainer assessors

We had a very large contingency in the Welsh team who did our club and country proud.

Our members were Jason Grice, Declan Ewington, Alex Parry, Jack Giddings, Karen O'D, Millie Wiggins, Brooke, Ellie and Kelsea Peterson.

We had five of our members competing at the World Championships in Holland - Millie Wiggins, Alex Parry, Tanara O'Neill, Jack Giddings and Karen O'Donoghue-Harris.

All had a great time and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. They were competing against the best in the world and some races had 140+ competitors.

Millie got ninth place in the under-18s ski and 10th in under-18s sprints, and Alex managed a superb sixth place in the ski race.

Karen surpassed even her own recent high standards, winning the Ski and Ironman events in the Masters, and third in the board race, so she now holds the full set of titles as she is the current Welsh, British, European and world champion.

To complete an amazing year we retained our title of Super Club, which is a culmination of Nippers, juniors, seniors and masters, pool and beach.

Rhoose Lifeguards would like to thank again all of the members, parents, coaches and friends of the club for their continued support – thanks for a great year!

VW

Sully View rack up the points against CIAC

IT is good to see that the CIACs are at last managing to field a team each week, albeit a somewhat understrength XV, and without a recognised front row, this game was played with passive scrums, negating one of Sully View RFC's stronger areas.

Still the visitors put up a gusty display, but could not match the View's all-round skills, and conceded four tries in each half.

Sully lead at the break 26-0, and eased past the 50 point mark, with tries coming at regular intervals from both the forwards and the backs, with Adam Wheeler scoring three, Rhys Manford two, and one each for Macaulay Robinson, Jon Thomas, and Ellis Smith, with Chris Cummings adding seven conversions.

The 54-0 result takes Sully View into second place in the league, although Hirwaun are only three points adrift and have a game in hand.

The Six Nations, now in full flow, has an adverse effect on grassroots rugby, and the next fixture is not for another four weeks, on March 4, so players are urged to keep attending training so that they will not lose too much of an edge.

There is good news as flanker Peter Brown has had an operation on his snapped ankle (sustained at Hirwaun), is out of hospital and was a welcome spectator at the CIACs game.

MJS

Vale Bridge results

THE results for the Vale of Glamorgan Bridge Club on February 6 are as follows:

First, Vida Halford and Glyn Williams, 62.50 per cent; second, Marjorie Morris and Linda Pinnock, 61.88 per cent; third, John Raymond and Alan Lewis, 60.63 per cent.

Llantwit Major & District Darts League

THE Llantwit Major and District Darts League season entered its 18th week with the highlights being:

Simon Nettleship 20 dart leg, Steve Price 20 dart leg and Sandra Jones 76 out.

The Shoes St Athan 'C', Kings Head 'A1' 2, Wenvoe Arms 'A1' 2 and Rugby Club 'A2' 2 all progressed through to the semi-finals of the Sir Cennydd Traherne cup which will be played on March 23.

Monday Night 'C' League results: Shoes St Athan 8, Kings Head 'C1' 3; Kings Head 'C2' 4, Wenvoe Arms 7; Lamb & Flag 'C2' 8, Tudor Tavern 'C1' 3; Rugby Club 6, Boverton Castle 5; Tudor Tavern 'C2' 1, Lamb & Flag 'C1' 10.

Tuesday Night 'A' League results: Kings Head 'A1' 10, Four Bells 1; Wenvoe Arms 7, Tudor Tavern 4; Fox & Hounds 7, Lamb & Flag 4; Golden Cups 8, Kings Head 'A2' 3; Rugby Club 'A2' 10, Rugby Club 'A3' 1; Shoes Peterston 10, Blacksmiths 1; Shoes St Athan 3, Rugby Club 'A1' 8.

DMC

Brian Lee's Blast From The Past 1991

THE Ely Valley Horse And Pony Race Club held their anniversary horse racing meeting at Llansannor, Cowbridge, on June 1, 1991.

There was £800 in prize money up for grabs while admission to the course was £2.50 with free admission for old age pensioners and children under 14.

Racegoers were requested to refrain from 'the use of bad language, otherwise they will be liable to a fine and be removed from the course'.

The King Of The Road Handicap over a mile had a first prize of £120 and this was won by Mr R Norton's Chessage which carried eight stone and was ridden by Malcom Thomas, whom I understand was a leading rider at these unlicensed meetings.

The Strip Fast 1 mile Handicap for 4th Division Horses went to a horse with good winning form called Interceptor, owned by Mrs D Hughes of Gilfach, and ridden by a jockey called Mousey. Interceptor carried 9st, 7lbs and went off at odds of 7-2.

There were 11 entries for The Canal Turn One Mile Handicap and first past the post was the 10-1 chance Toy Boy, owned by Gilfach's Gwyn Griffiths and partnered by Mousey.

Gavin Jones, riding the 3-1 shot Zowrie, took the Llansannor Bring Them Back Pony Race for ponies under 14.h.h., and The New Turf One Mile handicap resulted in a win for Mr J. Roberts of Ogmore Vale, Skippy ridden by Tony Passmore.

Dingle Dolphin, a winner of its last three races, ridden by Paul John for Mr D. Priday, of Pencoed, took The City One Mile Handicap For Division 1 Horses after being made the 4/6 favourite.

Incidentally, the Mr Griffiths I refer to is apparently the same Mr Griffiths who appears in my book *Racing Rogues: The Scams, Scandals and Gambles of Horse Racing in Wales*, and who was banned by the Jockey Club from attending or sending any racehorses to any meetings held under Jockey Club rules for 15 years - a harsh decision indeed.

**If you have any information on owners, trainers and riders who rode in these now long gone flapping meetings please e-mail brianlee4@virginmedia.com.*

Barry and District Skittle League

THE latest results for Barry and District Skittle League for week commencing January 23 are as follows:

First division: SV Gals (B Pycroft, J Warner, D Manning 28) 304, Bakers Dozen (E Baker 30) 287; Barry Stars, (A Cullen, L Lambeth 30) 325, Red Admiral (S Hayes 32) 309; Coppers (S Curtis 33) 319, Space Finders (D Carter 35) 329; Colcot Ladies (B Wilkins 30) 263, Family Affair (S John 28) 278; Allsorts (H Bunting 32) 272, Bobbys Girl;s (G Toogood, S Seldon 26) 252.

Second division: Castle Bandits (J Grant 27) 217, After Eights (M Conibear, D Goddard 26) 214; Roller Coasters (C Thomas 27) 229, Cad Con Fillies (M Boulter 26) 245; Witchill Widows (L Spyrou, M McKinney 29) 281, Breakaways (B GThurston 38) 310; Rhoose Starlights (G Oliver 29) 244, Clickies (K Watts, J Williams 27) 249; Airways Angels (L Donovan 27) 243, Fallen Angels (T Lawrence, J Tudor 27) 263; Merry Makers (C Edwards, I Overton 23) 219, Castaways (G Drew 27) 238.

Third division: Little Devils (L Hughes 28) 256, Rugby Triers (M Wilson 26) 212; Vixens (A MacIver 32) 261, Rebels (T Chapman 29) 224; Challengers (M Griffiths 35) 307, Hill Billies (M Brinkworth 30) 288; Uptown Girls (J Cosslett 25) 222, La Belles (R Clogg 28) 242; S V Ladies (C Griffiths 34) 283, Witches (P Cookson 31) 273; Twilights (C Brown 26) 220, Dolly Mixtures (A Forrest, K Rideout 26) 235; Westenders (T Strait 28) 235, Etcetera (J Barratt 26) 255.

Fourth division: Nite Outers (L Newman 27) 226, Off The Rails (L McCormack 27) 224; Aristocats (M Moore 29) 259, Persuaders (K Kemp 27) 212; Boozy Birds (A Lloyd 34) 300, Liberals (S Allen 33) 292; Socialites (S Marks 30) 264, Witchill Wanderers (C Morrissey 25) 186; Guardian Angels (S Gullwell, S Clark 23) 224, Hell Raisers (C Hatcher 26) 205; Living on a Spare (S Farmer 34) 320, Odd Bods (H Williams, T Cenong, V Jackson 30) 220.

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'Thrilled' Jodie is runner-up in Oman

WELSH point-to-point rider Jodie Hughes (left in the above photograph) who represented Great Britain in a world championship Arab horse race for female riders in Oman managed to finish a good second on a rank outsider who also had the worse draw from the outside stall.

Jodie said: "I was thrilled to finish second after coming with a storming late run."

Jodie, a former Welsh champion point-to-point rider, is looking forward to the start of the Welsh season later this month.

BRIAN LEE

Evan's 128-1 double!

Llancarfan's Evan Williams rewarded his followers with a 128-1 across the card double last Thursday.

The double was initiated when his 1-year-old bay gelding Tornado In Milan came home 15 lengths clear of the Colin Tizzard trained Masters Hill in the Fortress Home Insurance Handicap Hurdle at Wincanton and then about an hour and a half later at

Towcester, his six-year-old bay gelding Present Times landed the Grimscote Handicap Hurdle getting home by a head from Lord Ballim.

The former, who was ridden by C J Maher, carried top weight of 11st, 12lbs and went off a 16-1 outsider while the latter, partnered by Adam Wedge, was a 6-1 chance.

The Bradden Handicap Chase at Towcester was won by Debra Hamer's Magical Man who ridden by Tim Whelan won by six lengths from the favourite Try It Some Time.

Debra hails from the Vale but now trains in west Wales.

VALE HORSE THIRD IN FOXHUNTERS CHASE

High Hatton, owned by Cowbridge's Jeffrey Bird and trained by his brother-in-law Jonathan Tudor at Merthyr Mawr, finished a good third behind the odds-on favourite Wonderful Charm, trained by the legendary champion National Hunt trainer Paul Nicholls, and Carlton Ryan in the Bet 365 Scottish Foxhunter Open Hunters' Chase over three miles and three furlongs at Musselburgh last Saturday.

Mr Bird said: "High Hatton ran a cracking race and was only beaten for second place in the last few strides." He added: "Richard Patrick gave him a lovely ride."

High Hatton, at eight-years-old, was the youngest horse in the 10 runner field and was beaten one length and four lengths after being backed from 80-1 to 9-1!

Some hunt-racing enthusiasts believe that professional trainers such as Nicholls should not be allowed to race their highly-rated ex-steeplechasers such as Wonderful Charm in hunter chases - what do you think?

BRIAN LEE

Barry RFC fall victim to weather

UNFORTUNATELY, Barry RFC's fixture at Aberdare fell victim to the weather, with the home pitch waterlogged.

With the Six Nations now kicked off, the next fixture for the club will be at home to Pontyclun on Saturday, February 18, kick off 2.30pm.

Lottery numbers for last week were 04, 05, 08 and 21, which once again failed to produce a winner, this week's jackpot increases to £3,660.

AJ

Venue change for Dinas-West End fixture

DINAS POWYS entertain West End United in a Welsh League Division 2 fixture on Saturday, February 11 at Jenner Park.

Due to issues with the showers at the Murch, the game will be played at Jenner Park, with a 2pm kick off. Entry will be via the Barry Road entrance.

RG

glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Barrivale Bridge Club

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club for January 31:

1st Lyn Matthews & Alan Jones 63.49%; =2nd Celia & Huw Thomas 56.35%; =2nd Jane Brook & Hilary Morgan 56.35%. Hilary Laurence and Vivien Liles won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. A partner may be arranged if required. If you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or 01446 735592 call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

Alternatively players, inexperienced or new, may attend on Fridays at 10am at the same address.

DR

Primary pupils' 'Atomic Rugby'

Y BONT FAEN Primary School girls have raced into 2017 with a fast and physical January.

The month began with 'Atomic Rugby', a five-a-side, touch rugby tournament at Cowbridge leisure centre.

The first year 6 all-girls team competed against other schools in the Vale, winning five out of six matches.

A fantastic start for the girls who are looking forward to the next matches in February, March and full pitch in April, against more schools.

AW

Barry & District League tables and results

CRIB DIVISION 1:

West End 4, Moors Boys 11; West End Runaways 7, Liberals 8; Wyndham Cons 5, Rhoose Social 10.

League table: Liberals 119, Wyndham Cons 114, Rhoose Social 110, Moors Boys 110, West End Runaways 105, West End 103, Cadoxton Cons 89.

SKITTLES DIVISION 1:

Sea View B 1, Allsorts 6; Rugby Club 7, Cambrian Flyers 0; Rhoose Social C 7, Liberals C 0; West End D 2, Rhoosters 5; Liberals A 2, Rhoose Social B 5; Barries Boys 1, Rhoose Social A 6; West End C 5, Slammers 2.

League table: West End D 70.5, King William XII 67.5, West End C 66, Sea View B 59, Rugby Club 58.5, Allsorts 57, Rhoose Social C 53.5, Rhoosters 53, Barries Boys 50.5, Rhoose Social B 50, Rhoose Social A 44.5, Slammers 41.5, Liberals A 38, Liberals C 36.5, Cambrian Flyers 31.

SNOOKER DIVISION 1:

Wyndham Cons A 1, Harbour B 4; Penarth Cons A 4, Penarth Cons B 1; Rhoose Social B 2, Savoy A 3; West End C 4, Rhoose Social C 1.

League table: Harbour B 61, Savoy A 61, Cadoxton Cons Z 47, Wyndham Cons A 41, Cadoxton Cons B 39, West End C 38, Rhoose Social B 38, Penarth Cons A 34, Penarth Cons B 26, Services Social B 25, Rhoose Social C 25.

SNOOKER DIVISION 2:

Harbour A 5, West End A 0; Wyndham Cons C 3, Market Street C 2; Cadoxton Cons A 2, West End B 3; Wyndham Cons D 0, Savoy B 5; Market Street B 2, Sully Sports A 3.

League table: Liberators 53, Savoy B 52, Wyndham Cons C 50, Harbour A 46, Market Street B 45, Cadoxton Cons A 42, Market Street C 39, West End B 33, Wyndham Cons D 31, West End A 30, Sully Sports A 29 (* = points deducted).

All league and cup fixtures and results at www.barryleagues.co.uk and on Facebook - search for 'barry leagues'.

JW

RISING STAR ED'S AWARD

BRIDGEND-born Neath full back Ed Howley was awarded December's Principality Premiership Player of the Month award.

The 22 year-old, who went to Llantwit Major school, joined Neath from Maesteg after a short spell at Newport, and Neath head coach Gareth Llewellyn said: "Ed is becoming a potent counter-attacking full back, especially now that he's settled in at the club.

"He's very dangerous with the ball in hand and his performances have been recognised with selection in the Ospreys Premiership Select XV in the British & Irish Cup."

Howley, who began his rugby at Pontyclun juniors and youth, added: "There's a really good coaching and playing set-up at Neath and I feel I've gelled within the squad. I've benefitted from playing in the British & Irish Cup too. I'd love to become a professional player but if not, I just want to go as far as I can within the game."

James Schell, customer consultant at Principality Building Society in Neath, said: "Big congratulations to Ed for winning the player of the month award for December. The competition within the Principality Premiership has been fierce so far this season and his performances on the pitch have been superb. Good luck to Ed and the team for the remainder of the Principality Premiership."

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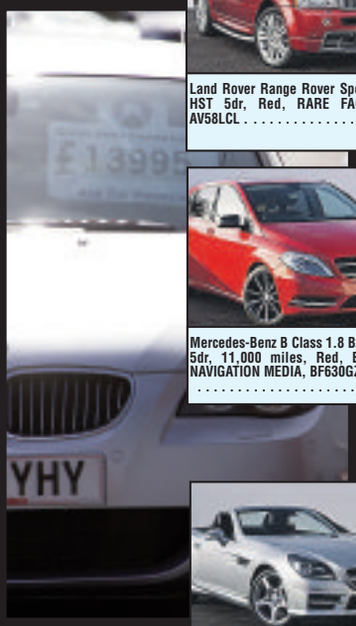

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Late Harris goal gives Barry under-16s victory in thrilling cup match

GOING into this fixture, both Barry Town United under-16s girls and Rhos went into the game looking to maintain their 100 per cent record for the season, having won all league and cup matches to date, but something had to give in this FAW Cup quarter-final.

Barry, playing in their green away strip, started the game on the front foot and soon put the Rhos defence under pressure. Sian Rees went close with a dipping shot from outside the area that went inches past the far post.

Barry's patient passing game and high pressing out of possession was evident and Town's early pressure finally told when they took the lead after eight minutes.

The ball was broken up in midfield and found Rees who played a sublime through ball for striker Lauren Harris, who confidently placed a left foot shot into the bottom corner.

A great start for the Vale-based team and soon after they doubled their lead. A set piece into the penalty area saw a goal mouth scramble that fell to midfielder Grace Corne who smashed the ball into the net to make it 2-0 to Barry after 16 minutes.

The turning point in the match came two minutes before half time. Barry went on the attack and Emma Cannon looked odds on to make it 3-0 but was denied by a fantastic diving save by the Rhos goalkeeper Celyn Davies.

From the resulting counter attack, Rhos pulled a goal back when Barry failed to deal with a through ball they duly took their chance, slotting the ball into the net to make it 2-1 going into half-time.

Goals change matches, and this was certainly the case as Rhos started the second half in the ascendancy with the game becoming more physical as the game progressed, with both teams showing total commitment to the cause.

Barry still looked the more confident team in possession but Rhos were causing problems on the counter attack playing in a direct style.

Harris and Rees went close again for Barry but the match took another twist when Rhos grabbed an equaliser. Barry failed to deal with a cross into the penalty area and the west Wales club tapped the ball home to make it 2-2.

With Barry down to just the 11 players on the pitch due to injuries this was to be a real test of character and, as shown on previous occasions, they can mix it up when necessary.

In search of a winner Rhos started to throw more players forward but this helped Barry who were now given more space to play their high tempo game and they looked the more likely to score.

Substitutes Sophie Hawkins and Olivia Townsend were often given free rein to attack in wide areas and the Rees, Harris, Cannon front three partnership were looking a real threat.

With five minutes remaining, Harris produced a moment of magic befit of a thrilling cup tie.

She picked up the ball on the left of midfield before cutting inside and unleashing a thundering shot from 25 yards that flew into the top corner to make it 3-2 to Barry.

The remaining minutes were dealt with confidently by Barry and they had further chances to finish off the game but they held out to record a deserved victory in the end against a good Rhos outfit.

Barry now progress to the semi-finals of the FAW Cup and are one match away from a possible final appearance.

Team: Ruth Stanley, Bethan O'Donnell, Amelia Davidson, Daisy Connolly, Holly Jenkins, Olivia Townsend, Grace Corne, Jasmine Rowely, Sian Rees, Lauren Harris, Emma Cannon, Sophie Hawkins.

LW

Dinas ladies put six past Caerphilly

HAVING had to replay this cup match with Caerphilly ladies, Dinas Powys ladies were in no mood to mess about and get the game won as earlier as possible.

Laura Murray, Demi Bounds and Laura Lewis all had chances to open the scoring but after Murray was fouled in the box skipper Leanne Pattermore made no mistake.

Kelly Tuck doubled the lead with a header from a corner as she was fastest to react. With 25 minutes played it become the Laura Murray show as she bagged a brace before the break, showing why she is regarded highly amongst her teammates.

Saunders, Jones and Nao won countless ball in the middle and full backs Alicia Cox and Alex Allen provided the width for some great outlets.

The second half was more of a training game as Dinas moved the ball with ease. The back four sniffed out any threat and Naomi Wilson had very little to do in goal.

Murray completed her hat trick as Demi Bounds turned provider. Then, introducing substitutes Sophie Whittle and Gemma Crowley, Dinas delivered a contender for goal of the season. The move involved five players before Gemma rifled home from just inside the box to make it 6-0, which is how it stayed.

All in all this was a very disciplined display from a group of ladies who have turned into a well-drilled outfit - Dinas now face Cwmbran in the semi-finals.

LS

Penllyn Bridge Club results

THURSDAY, January 5 (17 pairs):

1st David & Marian Stephenson 65.91%, 2nd Colin & Judith Nunn 64.61%, 3rd Gill Harding & Rita Williams 55.84%.

Thursday, January 12 (19 pairs): 1st Brian Tucker & Mike Baron 66.19%, 2nd Julia Evans & Chris Impey 58.75%, 3rd Marian East & Barbara Easterbrook 56.53%.

Thursday, January 19 (17 pairs): 1st Rita Williams & Gill Harding 64.29%, 2nd Marian East & Barbara Easterbrook 62.14%, 3rd Moyra Cuthill & Gill Wybrow 57.14%.

Thursday, January 26 (20 pairs): 1st Brian Tucker & Mike Baron 65.91%, 2nd John Lord & Jo Ilsley 60.61%, 3rd Allan Evans & Keith Price 59.60%.

CN

Last Day's dead heat

THE Evan Williams-trained The Last Day was involved in a dead-heat with Aye Aye Charlie in the GrandNational2017.com Maiden Open National Hunt Flat Race (Division 1) at Southwell last week.

A 20-1 chance, five-year-old The Last Day was ridden by Adam Wedge and was racing for only the second time.

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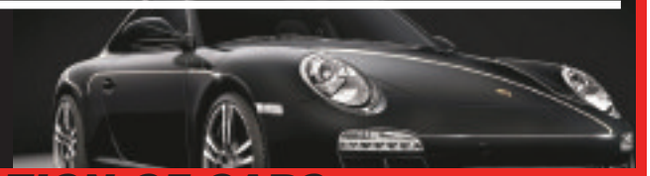

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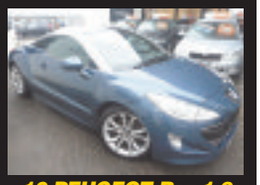

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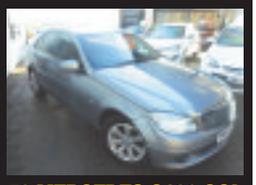

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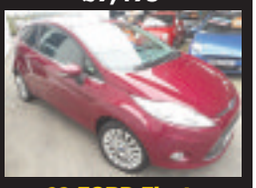

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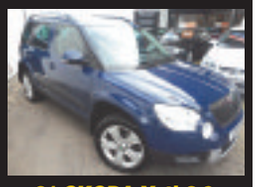

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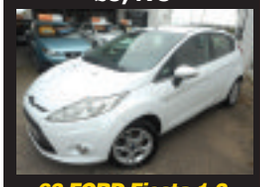

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blackhorse

Llantwit Major RFC get back to winning ways against Caerau Ely

LLANTWIT MAJOR RFC got back to winning ways on Saturday as they eventually overcame a stubborn and resilient Caerau Ely side in the league to record a 20-34 win.

The fixture was played in beautiful sunshine at the splendid Trelai Park in Cardiff, which is more locally known as the Ely Racecourse as it was once a venue for horse racing until its demise in the 1930s.

As the teams took to the pitch though racing pundits could only have described the going as heavy as several days of rainfall had taken its toll; the game being only one of three in the league not postponed due to waterlogged pitches.

It was some surprise then and credit to the players of both sides that the game managed eight tries especially as only five points were awarded in the first half.

The conditions naturally had a huge affect on play as both packs rumbled back and for as their half backs attempted to gain territory with tactical kicking. The home side gaining the upper hand in these early exchanges as their outside half showed why he has played at championship level with neighbours Glamorgan Wanderers with some huge touch-finding kicks.

In doing so he was able to time and time again to nurse his pack towards the Llantwit line and eventually despite some good defending, the much bigger Caerau pack drove over to record the first score of the game.

The game continued in the same vain until the break as any plays Llantwit could muster would be quickly downed in the increasingly muddy surface and quickly peppered back by the big boot of the Caerau number 10.

The only further incident of note seeing the hot-headed Llantwit outside-half Josh Austin traipsing off to cool down for 10 minutes for a lack of discipline. An area however it must be said has seen a significant improvement by the team since their new year's resolution, hopefully this just being a relapse.

The break required a change at scrum half for Llantwit with Iestyn Jones having to replace Ryan Evans who was unable to continue with a knee injury.

The second period then saw a much different Llantwit who decided they had had enough of this mud wrestling rugby and set about attempting to tire out the big Caerau pack by playing short and quick passes for their their back row of Jamie Lewis, Donovan Stoppel and Gareth Watts to make hard yards with across the gain line.

The tactic quickly rewarded with a penalty, kicked by Dan Powell. With the Llantonians now back to 15 players they began turning the screw on their opponents and upping the pace and number of their runs.

The moves finally to the delight of their coaches coming off quick ball with players running onto passes instead of receiving them statically to make valuable gains in territory.

The tactic came to fruition as dominant play in the Caerau 22 resulted in staunch lock Shaun Shea on seeing a mismatch in defence put his arms to good use in taking a quick penalty and releasing centre Wise Vakacegu to dive over, the try converted by Powell.

Llantwit were now taking charge of the game and took advantage of a strong bench to make more changes and now knowing exactly how to get the ball away from the Caerau pack they stuck to the same tactics and with their fitness beginning to show more and more gaps opened up.

Both lock Tom Winter and number eight Jamie Lewis went on big exciting runs from their own half, Lewis' being more adept to the final furlongs of the Grand National as he kept galloping away, leaving defenders trailing, falling as his legs gave way in the mud before getting back up again to charge forward before just falling short of the try line. The try eventually came with Jack Austin crossing, converted by Powell.

Caerau it may seem had folded but this was far from the truth as they resolutely defended and still caused Llantwit problems across the park, grabbing a try and a penalty of their own.

Llantwit, though, after a good tongue lashing from captain Huw Williams soon got back into the right field positions and a well-worked driving lineout allowed Iestyn Jones to break away before slipping a pass inside to Jamie Lewis to finally get across the whitewash.

The Caerau defence was now being fully exposed and several breaks eventually allowed Luke Dawes to show his speed racing along the old racecourse like a thoroughbred before diving in at the corner.

This was quickly followed by Jack Austin going over again after excellent handling by the three quarters in such bad conditions, again converted by Powell.

Caerau were not finished though and had the final say grabbing a late consolation try and a just reward for their efforts in a highly entertaining encounter.

Man of the match was Iestyn Jones who despite still being in the youth team showed maturity and confidence above his years in taking over in the unaccustomed number nine jersey. Once settled into the game, he continued to shine with good skills in quick accurate passing and some solid kicking out of hand.

Further mention going to Tom Winter who had a solid display in the lineout and grandad Tony Burrows who once again put his retirement plans on hold to prop up the scrum.

There is no game this weekend as the second round of Six Nations take place. All the games are being shown at the rugby club and some great special drinks promotions are on offer; members and non-members are warmly invited to attend.

The next game will be on Saturday, February 17, as we welcome the runaway league leaders Cefn Coed RFC to the Recreation Ground kick-off 2.30pm.

AH

Stalemate sends Barry Town United second

ABOVE LEFT: Bradley Cotterill in action for the Barry DVP side, while ABOVE RIGHT: DVP player Mikey George was called up to the Wales under-18s squad this week.

BARRY TOWN UNITED went second in Welsh League Division One on the weekend, though the Nathaniel MG Cup finalists will be frustrated at not taking all three points against a stubborn Cwmbran Celtic side, after playing out a scoreless draw at Jenner Park.

Saturday afternoon's showdown at Jenner Park attracted a bigger crowd than any of the day's six Welsh Premier League encounters, yet would fail to live up to its billing from a quality standpoint; the visitors shrugging off an early setback to keep the home side in check, in what proved to be a repeat of their 2015 stalemate.

Celtic have been a thorn in Barry's side for a number of seasons, taking 14 points from the last 21 contested, and heading into Saturday's fixture, the Town had to look as far as August 2012 for their last win over their Gwent-based adversaries; a hard-fought 3-2 home victory.

That afternoon saw Barry emerge victorious in spite of a first-half dismissal - and there were echoes of this scenario again on Saturday afternoon, as Cwmbran captain Owen Cook was handed his third red card of the season for a dangerous challenge early on.

Nevertheless, the visitors would pull out all stops to remain on level footing, working hard to stifle their opponents and restrict their opportunities, as the Barry frontline saw themselves repeatedly denied by the linesman's offside flag.

Among the best of Barry's limited chances, towering Callum Sainty saw his first half header tipped over the Cwmbran crossbar, before Drew Fahiya connected with a later shot on goal, only for his own effort to hit the side netting.

With injuries and infringements ensuring a stop-start game, Cwmbran's recurrent efforts to disrupt the match's tempo looked set to be for nought when, in the midst of 10 minutes of stoppage time, James Dixon looked poised to conclusively break the deadlock.

However, Dixon's goalbound effort would be dramatically cleared from the line - and his subsequent straight red card for a rash foul in the dying moments capped a fiery yet frustrating afternoon for the homegrown Barry forward.

While Barry would retain their unbeaten league record at Jenner Park, few in their ranks will have come away satisfied with the 0-0 outcome; a stark contrast to the visitors, whose dogged determination had helped them secure an ultimately unlikely point.

Now second with a game in hand, the Town's title aspirations remain alive and well, but Saturday's struggle underlined in no uncertain terms the calibre of their challenges in store, with leaders Goytre next in town on Saturday, February 25.

This Saturday sees Barry travel to Caldicot Town (2pm kick-off), hoping to replicate their 5-2 victory over the Blues at Jenner Park in September.

Manager Gavin Chesterfield will be without the suspended Dixon and defender Ryan Evans, who was forced off injured during Saturday's bruising encounter.

However, returning midfielder Troy Greening will be among those at Chesterfield's disposal, the former Newport County man having come on to make his 100th appearance against Celtic at the weekend.

Greening is the 10th of the current squad to reach his Barry century, joining teammates Evans, Dixon, Dan Bradley, Lewis Cosslett, James Saddler, Michael Hartley, Lee Baldock, TJ Nagi and Paul Morgan in the team's three-figure club.

Finally, the Town's development XI ensured the weekend would end on a winning note; overturning a 3-0 half-time deficit to beat Haverfordwest County 4-3 at Jenner Park.

Callum Flynn, Ethan Mcinery and Daniel Omoregie were all on target for the Barry team, before the returning Bradley Cotterill popped up to score the winner, completing a stirring second-half comeback.

The development side currently lie fifth in Welsh Premier Development League South, with first teamers Greening, Cosslett and Baldock among the established names to have featured for them as designated over-age players.

The next Welsh Premier Development League South match at Jenner Park comes 24 hours after the crunch Barry vs Goytre clash, as the Town's developing fringe squad tackles visitors Merthyr Town on Sunday, February 26 (2pm).

AC

Barry chess club's week marred by death of Windsor Lewis

THIS has been a much quieter week for the Barry Chess Club.

There were only two matches. These however have been overshadowed by the news that our elder statesman, Windsor Lewis, has passed away - our thoughts are with his family at this difficult time.

In the first division the Bosons travelled to play the Pentyrch A team. We returned home with a resounding 4 - 1 victory.

We won on the three bottom boards with Matthew Parry, Sam Jukes and Dave Parsons. On the top two boards Matthew Davies and Steve Cunliffe earned draws. This victory has lifted the Bosons to 4th place in the table.

Although there are 10 teams in this division the table appears toi be split into three separate sections. The Castles, Kings and Woodpushers are well ahead of the rest.

The Pirates are adrift at the bottom and Pentrych seem to be joining them inn the race to drop into the second division. The remaining five teams including the Bosons are fighting to avoid eighth place.

After every round of matches a different team temporarily drops into a relegation place.

In the second division the Camelots entertained the Bridgend B team. Bridgend only had four players so we were already a point ahead before a pawn was moved.

Mark Cooke earned us a point on board two and his son, Tom took a draw on board four, but that was all we could manage so in the end the spoils were shared.

Stephen Bonutto lost to Chris Howells again! They met only a few weeks ago in the south Wales new year Congress.

This draw leaves the Camelots seemingly secure in fifth place on 28.5 points. This puts them six points clear of the relegation zone. The bottom two, North Cardiff Titans and Pentyrch B look doomed already.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club. St. Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY.

The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival.

For more details visit our website at http://barrychessclub.yolasite.com.

PHIL JONES

Cowbridge Darts League round-up

ON Tuesday, January 31 no league matches were scheduled.

Hence the league standings remain unchanged, after 15 weeks, are: Edmondes B (97 points), Highwayman Inn (84), Six Bells Inn (82), Edmondes A (72), Edmondes C and Llanharry (71), Hairy Farmers (62), Farmers Arms and Victoria Inn (61) and Red Lion (14).

Next week (Tuesday, February 14) another full programme of league matches are scheduled. Llanharry hosts the Edmondes C, the Victoria Inn hosts the Hairy Farmers, the Edmondes A hosts the Edmondes B, the Farmers Arms hosts the Six Bells Inn and the Red Lion hosts the Highwayman Inn.

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are always welcome. For further information e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@gmail.com, up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk.

PJT

SIX NATIONS RUGBY

ITALY 7 WALES 33

Relief, as the first hurdle is cleared against battling Italians...

WELSH UNDERDOGS CAN BUILD ON HEARTENING FIGHT-BACK IN ROME TO HALT ENGLISH CHARGE

Game changer... Sam Davies.

Revitalised Wales came back from a nervy first half to stun Italy with three tries in quick succession in the final quarter: First, Jonathan Davies (far left) bustled over. Then Liam Williams (below) finished off a scintillating Welsh move to ground in the corner; fellow wing George North (far right) shrugging off a leg injury and racing away for a long-distance solo effort.

BACK PAGE COMMENT

by **Don John**

Pictures by the Huw Evans Agency

THE only thing that is certain on the opening weekend of a Six Nations tournament, is that it could spring at least one shock result – and sure enough, this came at an ecstatic Murrayfield, where Scotland, who have been quietly reforming under head coach Vern Cotter, came from behind to crush fancied Ireland's hopes of a Grand Slam at the first hurdle, with a stunning 27-22 victory in the final ten minutes.

"*This would have to rank as the best win of my time in charge*," a smiling Cotter said after watching his troops battle through, despite being under the cosh in terms of possession and territory for much of the 80 minutes – man-of-the-match, Stuart Hogg, staking an impressive claim for a spot on the British and Irish Lions' tour to New Zealand in the summer.

Another shock seemed to be on the cards a couple of hours later at Twickenham, where a re-galvanised France also threatened to prematurely end the title favourites' hopes of a back-to-back Grand Slam, before England scrambled to an unconvincing 19-16 victory at the end, their 15th in succession.

Their head coach, Eddie Jones, described the performance as "*awful*", though he did add that he had always been confident they would prevail, despite trailing for most of the match.

The Wales players watching on TV in their Rome hotel while preparing for their banana skin encounter with outsiders Italy the next day, would have taken careful note of Scotland's vivid reminder that nothing can be taken for granted at this level – and also that there really is everything to play for in this year's championship.

The message would have been forcibly conveyed by their abrasive new skipper, Alun Wyn Jones, who had been described by a national newspaper scribe as "*resembling a warrior from the Visigothic age*" for his resolute commitment on the field; while Wales' defence coach Shaun Edwards has said of him– "*he is a man you want to follow into battle*".

And so it proved, with the big Osprey leading as always from the front, as the heavens opened and the rain poured down at Stadio Olympico on Sunday, Wales avoiding a second shock result by beating off a determined challenge to launch their Six Nations campaign with a convincing 33-7 victory.

Mind you, it didn't look that way in a first half that saw the typically rugged Azzurri, reanimated under new management and perhaps still basking in their shock autumn win over South Africa, take the game to Wales and threatening to dominate up front, led by veteran skipper Sergio Parisse, severely testing the Welsh defence – while the men in red, to their credit, also sought to add more subtle, but controlled variety, despite the slippery conditions.

Chances went a-begging though as errors mounted and when play switched to the other end, fierce Italian pressure eventually told with a converted push-over try, almost followed by another moments later.

Thankfully, Wales full back, Leigh Halfpenny, then narrowed the deficit with a penalty, to make the half time score 7-3.

As the Welsh players trooped off to the dressing room for a slice of lemon and a lecture, they knew they had come off second best, and the proverbial banana skin loomed large, with the the tails-up Italians scenting another opening weekend shock.

The picture changed dramatically after the interval, with the arrival of young outside half Sam Davies, who replaced injured Ospreys' club mate Dan Biggar, and front row replacements Rob Evans and Tomas Francis, when it was the turn of the Italians to come under sustained pressure.

Within minutes of the restart, Halfpenny had landed two quickfire penalties and when the struggling Azzurri were penalised for the 12th time, he struck again to take a suddenly transformed Wales into a 12-7 lead they never looked like relinquishing.

A yellow card added to Italy's woes as Wales stepped up the pressure, which saw Jonathan Davies touch down for a try easily converted by Halfpenny (19-7) and when the home side were penalised yet again, a wonderfully executed handling movement was capped by flying wing Liam Williams for a second try, converted by that man Halfpenny, to take a now totally dominant Wales out of sight.

With three minutes to go, it was fellow wing George North's turn to race fully 60 yards for a converted try under the posts, despite struggling with a leg injury. Liam Williams almost put the icing on the cake with a bonus point, narrowly failing to ground the ball as the whistle blew for full time, and a job well done.

That second half 30 points display should put the camp in great heart as they now turn their attention to the 'big one' – Saturday's home clash against powerful England, and they have every reason to feel confident following that "*awful*" showing against France.

Typically, Eddie Jones had taken "full responsibility" for the team's performance, saying he had *"got some things wrong and had a lot of homework to go over"*.

However, a win was a win and it was "*onwards and upwards... It's England versus Wales in Wales next week. The test record shows 60 per cent have been won by Wales and 40 per cent by England, so mentally there are things that go on," he admitted*.

"I have been to the Principality Stadium and it is just another ground, so we will just have to work out why England don't play well in Wales. Maybe it's something to do with crossing the Severn River!"

No doubt, the straight-talking Aussie had in mind that even more "awful" evening in Cardiff, when another Grand Slam seeking England side were sent back over the Severn licking their wounds, on the end of a 30-point epic defeat.

While that is unlikely to be repeated under Eddie Jones in the heat of the Principality cauldron on Saturday, Welsh morale will have been hugely lifted and confidence will surely be high following their heartening fight-back and impressive second half display in Rome

If this can be maintained and England again under-perform, as they did in narrowly overcoming a French side still trying to find their way back to the *elan* of old, the Welsh camp know they have every chance to more than match the threat from the formidable men in white.

They will undoubtedly go into Saturday's game as underdogs – a role Welsh sides are traditionally comfortable with – and a golden opportunity awaits for the players (and the under-pressure coaches) to make a powerful statement that will send more shock waves through the RBS Six Nations championship – and beyond to the watching Warren Gatland as he pencils in names for his Lions' tour squad.

There is no doubt that with growing self-belief, Wales have the talent and durability to do just that. What a prospect to savour!